Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Central Committee Member Faustino Perez Dies

FL2512021992 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Comrade Faustino Perez Hernandez, a member of the Granma expedition and a combatant in the Rebel Army, died this morning from a heart condition he had been suffering from for several years. His wake is being held at the Calzada and K Street funeral home, and the funeral procession will leave from there tomorrow at 1000 for the mausoleum of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] in Colon Cemetery.

At the time of his death, Faustino Perez was the director of the Victoria de Giron Municipal Agricultural Enterprise in Matanzas Province, a post he had held since 1989. He was born on 15 February 1920 in Zaza del Medio, former Las Villas Province. As a medical student at the University of Havana, he took part in revolutionary demonstrations. He was a founder of the national revolutionary movement and participated in the 5 April 1953 conspiracy. He carried out various underground activities and missions and was a leader of the 26 July Movement in Havana. In July 1957, while a prisoner in the Castillo del Principe, he participated in the hunger strike staged by the political prisoners.

Starting in January 1959, he held the post of minister for the recovery of embezzled goods. At the beginning of 1960, he was entrusted with organizing and leading the social medical services in the Sierra Maestra. He headed an operations zone when the Escambray was cleared [of counterrevolutionaries]. He was a founder and chief of military health services in the Central Army, and in that post he participated in the battles at the Bay of Pigs. From August 1962 to May 1969, he was the president of the National Institute for Water Resources. From 1969 to 1973, he was the secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] regional committee in Sancti Spiritus. He was the Cuban ambassador to Bulgaria from 1973 to 1976.

Faustino Perez was a member of the PCC Central Committee from its creation, and had been a deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government since 1976. In 1977 he was appointed head of the office to oversee local people's government bodies, under the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. He held this post until 1989.

During his revolutionary career, he received the 20th Anniversary of the Moncada Attack Medal, the 20th Anniversary of the FAR Medal, and other awards.

Castro Attends Burial

FL2512232592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has attended the burial today of Comrade Faustino Perez Hernandez, a member of the Granma expedition and a combatant in the Rebel Army. Politburo members Carlos Lage and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and Central Committee members Vilma Espin, Armando Hart, Pedro Miret, and Jesus Montane were also present, along with his relatives, friends, and comrades in battle.

At the mausoleum of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, where the remains of this outstanding combatant will rest, Pedro Miret said that Faustino, humble but defiant, entered into revolutionary history and the country's efforts. He said that it is impossible to forget his perennial vitality and his healthy joy at every task completed, and he stressed that it is necessary for a life like Faustino Perez's to be known and for his example to prevail.

Second Round of Municipal Elections Begins

PA2712175992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The electoral colleges began operating at 0700 this morning, Cuban time, in 433 districts throughout Cuba to select an equal number of delegates to the Municipal Assembly of the People's Government.

The electoral colleges are preparing to carry out the second round of municipal elections in those regions where candidates did not obtain more than 50 percent of the total number of votes during the first election round on 20 December.

At least 13,432 delegates to the Municipal Assembly of the People's Government were elected during the first election round, where 97.2 percent of registered voters participated in the event. The high voter turnout is taken as categorical support for the Cuban Revolution, despite the difficult economic situation the island is currently experiencing.

According to the Cuban Government system, district delegates are duty bound to maintain direct and systematic contact with their respective constituents, serve their needs, listen to their suggestions, as well as contribute to solving any problems that may arise in the community.

At least twice a year, district delegates throughout the national territory must also account for their performance in the municipal government, as well as their track record in promoting production, service, education, culture, and recreational facilities.

During a tour to the special municipality Isle of Youth located south of Havana, Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the Young Communist Union [UJC], stated that the productive, economic, and political results accomplished during the current year constitute a vote of support for Cuba by all its people.

He added that presently the Cuban people as a whole are celebrating the results by participating in events and concerts organized in all provinces by the UJC. These

events are scheduled to conclude on 30 January with a main activity to take place in the Jose Marti Revolution Plaza in Havana.

According to Robaina, who is also a members of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau, regardless of how arduous and difficult 1993 may be, it has been demonstrated that with the support of our youth and people it is possible to conquer any obstacles.

Castro Receives Early Results

FL2812024292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has just visited the office of the National Electoral Commission [CEN], where he heard about the progress of the second round of the elections. National Assembly President Juan Escalona Reguera and CEN President Carlos Amat Fores informed the commander in chief how the elections had gone in the 49 municipalities in the country where the second round was held.

Fidel also asked for information about the closing of the 1,990 polling stations in these elections. Shortly before 1800, it was reported that 435,736 voters had voted. Havana City, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, and Guantanamo Provinces were the provinces with the largest number of districts holding a second round to elect the delegates to the Municipal Assembly of the People's Government.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Palestinians' Deportation

PA2512151192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry has described as arbitrary and illegal the Israeli Government's decision to deport 415 Palestinians from Gaza and Cisjordan, areas usurped by the Israelis. The deported Palestinians confront a difficult situation because they are out in the open in the midst of a bitter winter and (?surrounded) by the pro-Zionist Army of Southern Lebanon.

In a statement made in Havana, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said this is the largest large-scale deportation operation carried out against the Palestinians, who were forced by the Zionist government to leave their territories in 1948 and later during the six-day war in 1967.

The statement continues that the Tel Aviv authorities' actions again demonstrate the Zionists' true intentions to strip the Palestinian people of their rights and that this purpose has elicited the repudiation of the world and the UN Security Council.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry urged the international community to reject this decision and demand that the Palestinians be returned to their homes. The document demands that the United Nations compel Israel to obey the related resolution and the (?ruling) stipulating the Zionist forces withdrawal from the Arab territories.

Central Army, Territorial Defense Hold Exercises

FL2512023392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0160 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Units of the Central Army and the territorial defense system have concluded maneuvers today in that command's region. Tank, marine, artillery, anti-aircraft, reconnaissance, and other troops participated in this tactical exercise, which received a final evaluation of "good." They showed the knowledge, habits, and skills they had acquired in this year of combat training along with members of the Territorial Troops Militia and Production and Defense Brigades.

The maneuvers, which were dedicated to the 34th anniversary of the triumph of the Revolution, were held using the principles of the entire people's war. They were part of the final activities for this training year, which has been marked by the conservation of considerable amounts of material resources thanks to the performance of various firing and tactical operations tasks at target ranges, tank ranges, and automatic trainers.

In the early hours of 23 December, the units were awakened by combat sirens to face a simulated enemy landing. Tank, infantry, and artillery troops performed marches by stages, organized firing systems, set ambushes, and participated in night battles. The troops showed their effectiveness, dynamism, and unity at all times.

[Begin recording of unidentified military officer] These maneuvers, along with those just held in the Western Army, are really the ideal training methods we must use against the enemy we are going to (?face). So I ask for a round of applause from everyone. [end recording]

Robaina Addresses UJC Rally in Granma Province

FL2412205392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Roberto Robaina, the first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], gave the closing speech at the Granma Province rally for the Yes for Cuba campaign held at the Martires de Barbados Stadium in Bayamo. Robaina said that for people like those in Granma Province, there is no task that cannot be done, and he praised the enthusiastic crowd that had gathered there at the nation's bidding.

UJC Provincial First Secretary Noemi Rabasa said that the Young Communists do not accept truces or Zanjon Pacts, nor are they the replacements for anyone; rather, they are the continuation of a project they are helping to build, alongside those who began it. Representatives of the best artistic talents in Granma performed at the rally, including the string quintet, the professional chorus, soloists, and other cultural figures from the province.

Robaina Visits Isle of Youth, Completes Tour

FL2612175892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Roberto Robaina, a Politburo member and first secretary of the National Committee of the UJC [Union of Young Communists], has stressed that Cuba's youth is not dwelling on the current circumstances; rather, it is participating in each economic and political battle waged. Along with other youth leaders, Robaina resumed the work tour of the special municipality known as the Isle of Youth. This will complete the tour of all the provinces.

During the morning, the group met with the provincial bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba to find out how the priority programs are coming along; also, the work of the young people was analyzed with UJC cadres. The broad expounding of ideas; the profound, critical examination of growth in the UJC rank and file; political instruction; the work of young workers and students in priority tasks; and Pioneer activities revealed the creative effect these times are having on the Isle of Youth.

In only one month following the call to the Yes for Cuba campaign, close to 20,000 Pioneers and youths have mobilized for agricultural, livestock-raising work, and civil defense tunnel construction.

Dissident 'Sources' Report Sanchez Trial Postponed

PA2412201992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1809 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Havana, 24 Dec (EFE)—The trial of Cuban dissident Elizardo Sanchez, which was scheduled to be held this week, has been postponed to conduct new investigations, local dissident sources told EFE on 24 December. The sources said that Sanchez, who would have been tried on "public scandal" charges, has been held at a Havana police station for over 10 days for investigations.

Sanchez, who is president of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation [CCDHRN], was arrested on 10 December after a "repudiation event" organized against him.

Sources from Sanchez' group said he was forcefully taken out from the house of some friends and later taken to a military hospital with some bruises and swelling.

According to the official version, when the activist tried to disseminate "propaganda against the rank and file of the Cuban socialist state" he met with "the determined opposition of the area neighbors," who acted against him "until the public force put an end to the incident."

Rodolfo Gonzalez, spokesman for the Cuban Human Rights Committee, was arrested the same day. Diplomatic sources say Gonzalez has been charged with distributing "enemy propaganda and illegally possessing foreign currency."

Commentary Cites U.S. Envoy's Remarks in Bolivia

PA2512191992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Dec 92

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Concurrent with insistent rumors that the extradition treaty between Bolivia and the United States will probably be reformed, several parliamentarians and groups have expressed their rejection [words indistinct] U.S. interference in internal matters.

The most recent demonstration of this took place after a Cuban military delegation visited Bolivia. In an unfortunate attempt to make comparisons, Charles Bowers, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia, sent a note to the Bolivian Congress protesting the presence of Cuban soldiers in the country. He went further and stated that Bolivians should reject the presence of the Cubans just as they reject U.S. military incursions.

U.S. ambassadors have conducted diplomacy in Latin American countries for so many years and they have still not learned how to behave. In addition to their lack of propriety, the U.S. representatives in our countries, who continue to consider us quasi-colonies of their country, act with an habitual arrogance and a traditional lack of tact.

The U.S. ambassador's comparison was decidedly out of place. The intervention of armed U.S. troops on warmongering missions is very different from the Cuban delegation's visit. The latter came on a friendly visit, invited by authorities, and were even received by President Jaime Paz Zamora.

Bolivian Parliamentarian Fernando Rojas, president of the congress' international commission, referred to Ambassador Bowers' statements. He said no diplomat who prides himself on knowing the norms of the corps makes statements such as those made by the U.S. ambassador. Rojas added that the arrival of foreign officials is an issue that only concerns the host country.

Perhaps the U.S. ambassador's statements were a reaction to the people's angry response to the presence of U.S. troops in the country. Under the guise of fighting drug traffic, U.S. troops trek over the national territory with a challenging attitude, which makes people repudiate them and vehemently demand they leave the country.

In addition to these reasons, Ambassador Bowers' protests could also have been prompted by the Bolivian president's warm reception of the Cuban military delegation and his statements regarding Washington's

harassment against Cuba. At the event President Zamora said no government can legislate outside its borders. In this sense, he was not only referring to the Torricelli Law against Cuba but also to U.S. attempts to punish countries that trade with Cuba.

Regardless of the reasons, the U.S. representative's protest of the Cuban military delegation's visit was totally out of place. You only have to see how far Washington interferes in the internal affairs of all countries—with or without its troops—to become aware that, if there is a country that has to keep its mouth shut in this respect, it is the United States. Before making such statements, Ambassador Bowers should have recalled that Latin America's serious economic situation was caused largely by the pressures exerted by developed countries—headed by the United States—over the people and governments in this part of the world. By forgetting those realities, diplomats, like the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia, do not keep silent and further emphasize their countries' open intervention in matters that are none of their business.

Commentary Views 'Deserter' Landing in Varadero

PA2712191992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] In its 27 December edition, Cuban newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE denounced the farce staged in Miami regarding the landing of an aircraft piloted by a Cuban deserter on Varadero Beach in Matanzas to carry off his wife and two children.

The Cuban weekly newspaper said in a commentary that the pilot, Orestes Lorenzo, who fled to the United States in 1991 in a stolen aircraft, did not hesitate to endanger the life of two children to fabricate a juicy Hollywood image for himself.

After pointing out that in March 1991 Lorenzo deserted in a MiG-23 and was able to land at a U.S. airport without being detected, the United States is now trying to place doubt on the efficiency of Cuban defenses because it did not intercept a harmless aircraft.

In this respect, JUVENTUD REBELDE points out that the persons who are in charge of the Cuban air defense systems have conducted themselves with the utmost responsibility in intercepting any aircraft entering Cuban airspace, and that is why, despite all the threats and tensions Cuba has been under, there has never been an incident of downing a civil aircraft.

Haiti

Prime Minister Bazin Sends Christmas Message

FL2412221192 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1130 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Marc Louis Bazin on 23 December in Port-au-Prince—recorded]

[Text] Haitian Men, Haitian women, very dear friends of mine: In a few days, I will address you for the traditional message on the state of the nation. It will be as detailed as possible. It will be a report on the actions of the government over the past six months, the results, and the perspective of actions to come during the forthcoming months. I have come today to wish you, simply and briefly, Merry Christmas, a Christmas of peace, concord, solidarity, and brotherhood among Haitians, in a word, a Christmas in unity.

Christmas is the time for thought, for pause, for forgiveness, and for hope. Let us take advantage of this Christmas time for introspection. Why? Why all these quarrels, all these abuses, all this harshness? Why all these divisions that weaken us inside and so discredit us outside the country? Do we not see how dearly our divisions cost in wasted time, lost occasions, squandered money, sacrificed social progress, and deteriorated prestige? When will we understand that this country belongs to all of us and that we must come to an agreement so all Haitian men and women can have their just place? When will we understand that we must work together, hand in hand, and jointly so as to make Haiti a beneficent land for all Haitians? As long as we do not manage to understand that, as long as we do not place the higher interests of the nation over our little personal rivalries, we will remain the poorest people of America, we will remain the AIDS country, we will remain the boat-people country; and foreigners always will be swift to interfere in our [internal] business.

By the way, this situation of chronic dependence upon foreigners for our clothes, our food, our travel, our care, in short, for all life's necessities, and even—more and more—to settle our internal quarrels can no longer be tolerated without our losing the main thing, which is our soul, our autonomy, and our independence. In other words, at the rate things are going—and if that had to continue long at the same rate and with the same tensions and in the same direction which has always been contrary to our true interests—it would eventually mean that nobody will win and that everybody will lose.

Seen from that angle, today's hardships are a good lesson for the future. The time has come for the great national beginning of the renovation of society through democracy, progress, and freedom in restored agreement and honor. Let us all gather around the same table; let us talk, let us talk to one another, let us talk to another again until we find the appropriate solution, an equitable solution, a well balanced solution, a peaceful solution. Violence—whether verbal or physical, and we will never stop repeating that—will never be the solution; and systematic confrontation, [even] if it makes noise and sometimes amuses the audience, is not the method to achieve results.

We are all Haitians. No one, I say, no one is better or worse than the other. No one is totally right or totally wrong. The question of who is guilty, of who hit first, is an unimportant one. Because in the end, everyone is

guilty. There are not good ones on one side, and bad on the other side. Unfortunately also, if there is one thing very common to us all, it is the natural tendency of each Haitian to believe that he can do everything on his own; that he alone holds the solution and others only have to follow him, or, failing that, the others can disappear. We are wrong to think that way. We will secure the safety of Haiti, and of Haitians, together or not at all.

My dear friends, saving Haiti today is not only the sacred duty of a real patriot, is not only the elementary and natural duty that birth, culture, language, belief, and historical patrimony impose on us. Saving Haiti today has become an emergency, an emergency on the physical plane, on the moral plane, on the social plane, on the psychological plane. Therefore the task is immense. It can no longer wait. From each one of us it asks the sense of effort, the sense of sacrifice, the sense of abnegation, and the sense of generosity. However, no matter how tough the task, it can not discourage us in advance. From this seat in which circumstances and your trust in me has placed me today, I say to all of you, keep the faith. The time is approaching. The horizon will slowly clear. The clouds will break up and the storm will not come. If before everything and in everything, we say and think of Haiti first, if we all show good will, if we control our passions and put aside even temporarily our short-term interests, then soon the path to noble ambitions and great hopes will open to us.

It is in that spirit that, on your behalf, I say to the entire country and to all Haitians, wherever they are, in whatever part of the globe to which life's hazard has led them in search of a better situation, to all I say, Merry Christmas. I say it to all of you, with no distinction as to party, opinion, generation, or level of fortune. However, in this time of hardship for the nation, hardships that have increased the number of the poor and have made those poor even poorer, no one will hold me any grudge, at least I hope not, if on behalf of you all, I have a special thought for those of our brothers and sisters who live in absolute deprivation, without a roof, without fire, without care, without joy, weak and hungry. For them and on their behalf, I call on your sense of sharing and of solidarity. It is with a feeling of filial attachment that I take on the compassionate wish of His Holiness John Paul II in his message on the world peace celebration: May the rich and the poor recognize that they are brothers and sisters, to share everything they own as children of the same God who loves all human beings, who wants their welfare, and who offers to all the gift of peace. Thank you for your attention.

Opposition Senators Ask Bazin To Resign

FL2412222292 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The senators of the opposition are seeking the resignation of Prime Minister Bazin. In view of the refusal of Marc Bazin to present himself at the Senate of the Republic on 22 December, 13 opposition senators stated during a 23 December news conference at the Senate that Mr. Bazin has slapped the nation and the parliament in the face by refusing the interpellation session and they demand his resignation.

Alvarez Machain States Willingness To Stand Trial

PA1912042192 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] In Guadalajara, Jalisco State, Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain said he is willing or open to making any clarification that may be requested by either the Mexican or U.S. governments with regard to his alleged connection to the death of U.S. narcotics agent Enrique Camarena.

Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain said he is calm and trusts in his innocence, but that if authorities summon him to a trial in his country, he is willing to go to court.

[Begin Alvarez recording] There is a request for this. The U.S. ambassador must take steps with the attorney general so that the case is studied to determine whether the necessary evidence exists to begin a process. If there is enough evidence, I will be summoned. We must take things patiently and wait.

I repeat, however, I trust very much in my innocence and I believe it would be ridiculous if I was tried in Mexico, because I have never been charged here. [end recording]

Alvarez Machain said he is open to providing any information to the Mexican and U.S. governments. He said he will go to the Attorney General's Office if he is summoned. He also said the trial is over and reiterated what Miguel Angel Ponce, his attorney, stated in court on 14 December. Ponce said a person cannot be tried twice for the same crime. Therefore, Alvarez Machain said, I do not know what the U.S. Government is requesting.

Pemex Crude 'Incompatible' With Cuban Refinery

PA2412153192 Paris AFP in Spanish 0545 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Dec (AFP)—The probable association of Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] and the Cuban Government to refine crude oil at the Cuban refinery in Cienfuegos could be canceled, the Mexican Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry reported on 23 December.

During preliminary talks between Mexican bank authorities and Cuban Government delegates, it was determined that the Mexican Maya crude oil is incompatible with the Cuban refinery's infrastructure, Deputy Mines Secretary Jose Luis Aburto said.

This limitation has made it impossible to proceed to the next stage in the negotiations to refine Mexican crude oil in one of the Caribbean's largest processing plants, Aburto added. He finally said that Pemex will continue to try to establish relationships and associations to place Mexican crude oil and obtain refined products abroad.

Inflation Rate Stands at 11.3 Percent for 1992

PA2412155892 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The national consumer price index increased by 0.9 percent during the first two weeks of December. The Bank of Mexico points out that this is the lowest increase ever recorded in the first two weeks of December since 1988. The report explains that the most notable increases will be in the areas of food products, furniture and health services.

Cumulative inflation from January through the first two weeks of December 1992 totals 11.3 percent.

El Salvador

Defense Ministry Reports Death of U.S. Citizen

PA2612180792 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Military sources reported on 26 December that on 25 December unidentified individuals shot to death a U.S. citizen in a park on the outskirts of San Salvador.

A Salvadoran Defense Ministry report indicated that U.S. citizen Randal Blackburn Cash "was shot several times in different parts of his body with a weapon of a still undetermined caliber" as he was visiting Balboa Park, 12 km south of San Salvador.

The report stated that the circumstances and motives surrounding the crime against the U.S. citizen are still unknown. It did not indicate Blackburn Cash's immigration status in the country.

Common crime has increased considerably in the country following the official end of the 12-year civil war which, according to humanitarian organizations, has left more than 75,000 dead. Organized gangs of robbers armed with rifles and explosives operate in the capital and on the roads in the country's interior.

Political Group on FMLN Legal Status

PA2512133992 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Dec 92 p 45

[Paid advertisement by the Liberty and Democracy Institute, ILYD; date not given]

[Text] The Liberty and Democracy Institute [Instituto Libertad y Democracia] proclaims to the national and international people:

Aware of the duty of every Salvadoran in this historic and important moment of the fatherland's history and trusting in the supreme god, the inspirer of the most lofty ethical and moral values, we declare:

I. We are Salvadorans of different occupations united to defend the values of man and rescue the Republic's institutions;

II. Although we do not agree ideologically with the programmatic platform of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], we wish to voice publicly our satisfaction with the decree that granted legal status to this new party which, in the past, in a fit that is characteristic of obsessive revolutionary ambition and to the fatherland's disgrace, decided to take up arms as a means to seize state power.

III. We want to believe the FMLN finally understands that the people do not support violence. We think that in this phase of our independent life, true Salvadorans must join efforts to ensure the FMLN realizes that only peaceful means will make democracy triumph and consolidate our liberties.

IV. We profoundly thank all active forces of the nation that helped defend national honor, especially progressive private enterprise, the great ecclesiastical sector that is not committed to the popular church [iglesia popular]; the Armed Forces of El Salvador; and all good Salvadorans, who systematically rejected the communist attack of the 12 years of conflict.
For a free El Salvador in democracy,
[Signed] Liberty and Democracy Institute.

Dr. Kirio Waldo Salgado M., Dr. Rolando Fagoaga G., Miguel Tomas Lopez, Oscar A. Erazo, Dr. Vernon Madrigal C., Rene Arturo Villalta, Sonia Ponce, and Gloria Rodriguez.

Political Leaders To Attend Reconciliation Conference

PA2412130092 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Distinguished political figures will participate in the "Reconciliation in Times of Transition" conference that will be held in El Salvador on 11 and 12 January 1993.

Attending the event organized by the Supreme Court of Justice and DEMOS [expansion unknown] center, are former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar; Bernard Aronson, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs; former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin; and former Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti.

Also scheduled to attend are Salvadoran Government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] representatives; former Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel; former Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski; Jose Zalaquett, a former member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Chile; Kurt Biedenkopf, the minister president of Saxony, Germany; Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani; and other distinguished professionals of worldwide politics.

It has been announced that the national goals of the event include contributing to a reencounter of Salvadoran society through analyses, discussions, and an understanding of the meaning of the peace agreement and the strengthening of the peace and reconciliation process through an exchange of experiences and solutions with transition processes in different parts of the world.

The conference was designed in three phases: the first will include an analysis and evaluation of the meaning of the peace agreements from the viewpoints of the Salvadoran Government, FMLN, and international community. The second phase will include an analysis and discussion of experiences encountered in the Salvadoran process and in similar processes in other parts of the

world. The third phase will deal with the scope of the Salvadoran peace and reconciliation process' influence.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister on U.S. Relations, Human Rights

PA2412224592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1649 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Guatemala, 24 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park stated on 24 December that his government is not apprehensive about the human rights policies that might be developed by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.

He added: "We are not afraid as we have made significant progress, both domestically and internationally, regarding human rights issues."

The foreign minister's reply was in response to statements made recently by Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemalan Indian activist and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner. According to Menchu, the government is worried about new U.S. human rights policies.

Minister Menendez Park pointed out that there was a very good understanding during the Republican administration, and that the same relationship is expected to continue under a Democratic administration.

Minister Menendez Park added: "We believe changes will not be drastic" and that mutual respect will exist between Guatemala and the United States.

"We expect the U.S. Government to be reciprocal in its relations of friendship, as well as to give fair treatment regarding the opening of its markets to our products," the foreign minister commented.

He emphasized the government will not tolerate foreign intervention in affairs that pertain exclusively to Guatemalans.

On the other hand, the human rights organization Americas Watch requested that Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa clarify recent reports regarding David Holiday's, its representative in Central America, involvement with the Guatemalan guerrillas.

Americas Watch expressed its concern about the statements, and reported "We believe it is just another effort to disparage humanitarian groups."

"This type of rhetoric diminishes the Army's credibility more than it does the nongovernment organizations, which work to achieve respect for human rights," Americas Watch pointed out.

Panama

Official Confirms House Arrest of Drug Secretary

PA2612224992 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2135 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Report by Luis Alberto Jimenez from the Judicial Technical Police building]

[Text] Carlos Landero, deputy director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], came out of the PTJ building a few minutes ago and said he sent a note to Drug Secretary Ariel Alvarado telling him he is in the same situation as suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. Here is what Landero said:

[Begin recording] [Landero] On instructions from the Directorate General, I phoned Alvarado's residence at 1300 on 26 December about a note issued by the Solicitor General's Office. This is the text of the note:

PTJ Director Jaime Abad: This is to inform you that the cautionary ruling mentioned in the note I delivered to you personally includes Ariel Alberto Alvarado for all legal purposes and that this ruling will remain in effect until it is revoked or amended. Consequently, Alvarado must be kept in custody just as has been stipulated in this ruling. I would appreciate it if you would enforce it. Yours truly, Donatilo Ballesteros, solicitor general.

We informed Alvarado of this measure. He is now at his residence in PTJ custody.

[Reporter] Is Ballesteros empowered to issue an arrest warrant for Alvarado?

[Landero] I will not discuss that. All we had to do—and all we did—was to inform Alvarado of the solicitor general's decision.

[Reporter] Where is Alvarado?

[Landero] He is at home, where we talked with him twice over the telephone. He has been advised of the decision and replied that he will obey.

[Reporter] In other words, Alvarado is under house arrest.

[Landero] Right. He is in the same situation as Cruz. Alvarado's residence has not been broken into at any time. Everything has been done according to the law. Alvarado told me he regards himself as properly advised of the solicitor general's ruling.

[Reporter] Was he not arrested at PTJ installations?

[Landero] He neither showed up here nor was he arrested by the PTJ. He just was notified informally because he was conducting some business at the Supreme Court of Justice. As soon as he was informed of the note, he telephoned me to acknowledge the order.

[Reporter] Alvarado said someone had broken into his office. What does the PTJ have to say about that?

[Landero] The narcotics division conducted an investigation. It was determined that his office was never broken into or searched. His office has been under surveillance since yesterday. No one will be able to enter the office until current Attorney General Valdes so orders.

[Reporter] If the drug secretary was not at the PTJ, why have cars sped away from here?

[Landero] No vehicle has sped away from this building. It could be that some car departed quickly, but not violently.

[Reporter] Where is the PTJ director?

[Landero] He is conducting personal business. May I emphasize, however, that we are talking about Alvarado and that he has been notified and told us over the telephone that he will obey the solicitor general's order.

[Reporter] Reporters protest about the harsh way some PTJ members have treated them.

[Landero] With due respect and on behalf of the institution, I apologize for some excesses committed by some of our members. Please refer all complaints to our internal affairs section so we can take the appropriate disciplinary measures. [end recording]

President Endara Swears In New Attorney General

PA2412231592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2144 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara on 24 December swore in Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes, who replaces the nation's highest prosecutor, Rogelio Cruz. Cruz has been removed and put under house arrest while he is being investigated for violating the law by unfreezing bank accounts in an irregular fashion.

Endara, who has not made any comments on the case, swore in Valdes at the Presidential Palace before Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier and Presidency Minister Julio Harris.

Donatilo Ballesteros, the administration's solicitor general, removed and arrested Cruz. In his opinion, there is enough evidence to investigate Cruz for unfreezing $38 million in accounts apparently linked to drug trafficking.

Ariel Alvarado, secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office, was also removed from his post as he is responsible for the accounts that are being investigated for alleged money laundering in Panama's international banking center.

Valdes was en route to the Attorney General's Office to assume his post, while Carlos Cuestas, Supreme Court of Justice secretary, waited for the amparo of guarantee filed by Cruz against Ballesteros.

The investigation of Cruz and Alvarado was initiated by Ballesteros based on recent charges presented by Legislator Leo Gonzalez; Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena; Eusebio Marchosky, president of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property of the Comptroller General's Office; and by attorney Alvin Weeden. All these people have accused Cruz of unfreezing accounts that had been frozen for alleged "money laundering."

Gonzalez, from the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena), is the president of the Legislative Assembly Drug Affairs Committee, which investigates drug trafficking in the Panamanian community and in political circles. Gonzalez has publicly accused Cruz of being linked to the drug mafia.

On 23 December the Supreme Court of Justice overruled Cruz, who had arrested Arosemena for alleged contempt. At the same time, the Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of Arosemena, also a Molirena member.

Rogelio Cruz Comments on Motive for Removal

PA2512043992 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Report on news conference by Rogelio Cruz with unidentified reporter in Panama City on 24 December]

[Text] The estranged attorney general of Panama, Rogelio Cruz, left the Attorney General's Office at approximately 1700 [2200 GMT] in the company of Carlos Landero, deputy director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], and under the custody of a strong PTJ contingent.

Cruz was taken to his residence in San Francisco Corregimiento. His residence was swarmed by reporters.

The first person to make statements at Cruz' residence was the PTJ deputy director.

[Begin recording] [Landero] I have followed orders from PTJ Director Jaime Abad to take Rogelio Cruz to his residence under custody and to see that he stays here as the solicitor general has ordered.

[Reporter] Why did not Mr. Abad himself appear?

[Landero] I do not know. I am following orders from the director. [end recording]

At the patio of his residence, Attorney General Cruz held an unscheduled news conference.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] I have not been informed of any resolution. However, I have shown respect for the resolution. We had already prepared an action for protection under constitutional guarantees against the resolutions

Solicitor General Ballesteros issued on this case, therefore, all we have to do is add his latest resolution. This afternoon we presented to the secretary general of the Supreme Court, who visited the Attorney General's Office, not only the action for protection but also a habeas corpus. The purpose of the action for protection is to request the resolutions issued in connection with this investigation be revoked because they violate fundamental guarantees. The purpose of the habeas corpus is to ensure the Supreme Court of Justice lifts the precautionary measures adopted by the solicitor general because they are illegal.

There is something interesting I must tell you. Today the solicitor general ordered that I cannot leave the country. He also ordered that I cannot leave my residence. I cannot see how I could leave the country if I am unable to leave my residence.

There is also a legally aberrant situation: Precautionary measures are substitutions for preventive arrests. He has said and accepted in the recent resolution that a preventive arrest was not applicable in my case, then how can a precautionary measure be applicable?

This is why we have presented the habeas corpus action. I must tell you also that this afternoon I received a telephone call from the chairman of the Supreme Court of Justice. He told me several Supreme Court justices are in the country's interior. I asked him to receive both my actions this afternoon and to present them to a motions justice so the court will resolve the habeas corpus I have presented in my favor very soon, with the same promptness it resolved the habeas corpus of Rodrigo Arosemena—something I publicly praised this morning.

It is very important to mention that I knew that Donatilo Ballesteros sold his soul to the devil. I told him this publicly several weeks ago. I have told the acting attorney general, Jorge Ramon Valdes, not to sell his soul to the devil as Donatilo Ballesteros did. I told him I would be closely watching the illegal measures that may be maintained, for a few days only, I hope, so that he may follow through with the criminal investigations we have been conducting against important government officials you all know about, like Rodrigo Arosemena, especially, and other officials we are investigating. [end recording]

Cruz noted that what is happening to him is a result of the work he is conducting.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] There is this political farce that involves large economic interests of people who think they are untouchable, of people who think they live in a country where the law does not apply to them. We are demonstrating that this is a country where the law is applied to big people and to little people.

If we adopted a look-the-other-way attitude when important government officials were committing crimes, nothing would have happened to us. We are having problems because we are stepping on the toes of big people who simply believe the law should not be applied to them. Now I am at your disposal.

[Reporter] Do you think you will return to the State Attorney's Office?

[Cruz] I am absolutely sure we are going to return to our post because this legal and political hoax will be cleared up very soon.

[Reporter] What devil were you referring to when you said the solicitor general sold his soul to the devil?

[Cruz] Look, he knows very well which devil I am referring to. For the time being, I think that is sufficient. I spoke to him about the issue approximately one month and a half ago. When I left his offices I mentioned it to all of you. Therefore, he knows who the devil is because we spoke about it.

[Reporter] Who is behind this fabrication?

[Cruz] Well, it is quite evident that behind all this deception we can find the comptroller general of the Republic; at least one of the so-called magistrates of Directorate for the Recovery of State Property, more specifically Eusebio Marchosky; Alvin Weeden; and Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena. All of these people, who are either public officials or private individuals, are currently under criminal investigation by the Attorney General's Office. Of course, I cannot forget to mention Legislator Leo Gonzalez, who is a personal friend and business associate of Rodrigo Arosemena. By taking advantage of his immunity as a legislator—or I should say his near impunity—he has become the spokesman of this campaign.

Arosemena Says Justice 'Served'

PA2512040892 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 92

[News conference by Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena with unidentified reporter in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Arosemena] The truth is that I cannot hide my satisfaction, despite everything. There is a well-known saying: Justice takes its time, but in the end it arrives. I think what the Panamanian people were waiting for has arrived. Justice has been served. This means that in this country, in this democracy, there are honest government officials and there are government officials who know how to apply justice.

On 23 December I complied... [pauses] on 22 December I complied with the illegal incarceration order issued by the attorney general, even though it was a totally arbitrary and illegal action. Nevertheless, I complied with this order because I am a man of law and I strongly believe in Panamanian justice. Of course, I am talking about the justice of the judicial branch, not the justice of the Attorney General's Office. I surrendered to this justice and I hope that if the attorney general is truly a man of law, as he says he has been and is, he surrenders

to justice. He has in his favor a democracy, a large number of appeals I hope he will use. I say this because one must not take advantage of the fallen opponent. Nevertheless, I do want justice because he has been involved in serious situations and I believe that with his removal many more things are going to come out in the open.

[Reporter] What are the implications of this situation?

[Arosemena] I do not believe there will be any implications. The only thing is that any government official should know that, even though he has the title of attorney general... [pauses] he felt he was... [pauses] on so many occasions he said the others felt they were above the law. I believe we have demonstrated that we respect the law. Well, now it is his turn to respect the law. Everyone must obey the law, this is a democratic country. President Endara made a commitment to the Panamanian people in this democracy that has achieved another victory.

[Reporter] Those who defend Mr. Rogelio Cruz have pointed out that this is a fight between a social club and the rest of the community. Do you belong to that social club?

[Arosemena] I belong to the social club of the Panamanian people. I have defended the Panamanian people in my struggle against drug trafficking by risking my life and that of my family. I have marched on different occasions in several parts of the nation accompanied by the people who on the night of my illegal incarceration said: Rodrigo, you are defending our children, we will defend you. This filled me with great satisfaction. I want to tell the Panamanian people that I am filled with satisfaction, awareness, and a large dose of energy to continue in my struggle against drug trafficking in favor, not only of the Panamanian people, but also of my family. I am concerned with my family. This is a [word indistinct] country, a good country so we should not allow drug trafficking to control us.

This is a very personal opinion and I accept the risks involved. I believe many of the people who have defended Attorney General Cruz will be on the run. I believe the mafia, whom I believe were supporting the decisions of the attorney general, are wondering what will now happen to them. Moreover, the struggle continues against drug trafficking with more energy and more drive.

Ballesteros Cites 'Evidence'

PA2512003692 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2212 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Interview with Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros by Yula Velotti Montesa and Homero Londono; place not given—live]

[Text] [Velotti] We are with Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros. Sir, we would like you to tell our radio listeners the basis for the removal of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz from his post.

[Ballesteros] Thank you for this interview, Yula. First, I have the legal authority to initiate these proceedings. Second, the charges were supported by evidence. An investigation has been initiated to establish if the punishable actions indicated by the evidence have been committed.

It has been ordered that the department of the Attorney General's Office that specializes in narcotics matters supply documents on investigations it is conducting. These investigations have resulted in the charges we are investigating.

Local banks have been asked to provide information on the unfreezing of accounts. A comparison of the documents supplied by the office that specializes in drug matters with the documents sent by the banks reveal the documents provided by the office do not report the unfreezing of a certain amount of accounts. This leads me to believe evidence is being concealed or manipulated.

The law authorizes me to safeguard evidence and it is my opinion that the attorney general does not have the authority to unfreeze accounts, as this is a function of the courts. As Article 22 of Law 23 of 1986 establishes, we adopted measures that were necessary to ensure the efficacy of the investigations. We ordered the removal of the attorney general and the Drugs Office secretary from their posts because we will search for evidence in those departments.

[Velotti] Sir, some people believe this decision is a result of pressure from the executive branch. What do you think about this?

[Ballesteros] I think the executive branch is surprised by this decision. I have not received any calls from government officials. I would not let any of them exert pressure on me either. It is my personal prestige, not theirs, that is at stake in this investigation. I perform my functions appropriately. I do not let any official or person exert pressure on me. I also told this to a group of attorneys who urged me to close the investigation. These were the only people who pressured me.

[Velotti] Homero, do you want to ask Mr. Ballesteros a question?

[Londono] Yes, Yula, we would like the solicitor general to tell us a little more about the removal of Ariel Alvarado, secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office.

[Ballesteros] Mr. Alvarado is the person responsible for all the investigations linked to drug trafficking. I sent him a note requesting documents on accounts that were unfrozen; the name of the bank that had been advised of the freezing of the accounts; the name of the owners of the accounts; the amount frozen and subsequently unfrozen; the official who requested that the accounts be unfrozen; and to present the document authorizing the

unfreezing of the accounts. Alvarado sent me a note that because I had not addressed the note to the attorney general, he could not provide that information. Immediately thereafter, I reiterated to him in a note—on the same date I received his note—that this was an order and that if he did not obey this order I would be forced to proceed as I am authorized by the law. Subsequently, Alvarado sent me a pile of documents just two days ago. The information supplied by the banks does not agree with these documents. This indicates there has been manipulation of the evidence. This is why I removed him from his post.

[Londono] Mr. Solicitor General, can you tell us the origin of the money that was unfrozen?

[Ballesteros] No I cannot. This is the investigation that has to be carried out by the Narcotics Secretariat. This should be concluded by now because all the investigating officials have two months to conclude the investigations.

[Londono] Now that you ordered the removal of the attorney general and the secretary general for narcotics, who will continue with the investigations?

[Ballesteros] I will continue with the.... [pauses] as far as the attorney general is concerned, I will continue with the investigation.

[Londono] What about the secretary general for narcotics?

[Ballesteros] For the time being, I will continue with this investigation. Subsequently, certified copies of the documents will be ordered to be sent to the authority who will try him.

[Londono] Has the Supreme Court of Justice issued its ruling on the habeas corpus filed by Attorney General Cruz? Has he filed this already?

[Ballesteros] I do not know, because I just arrived here for a meeting and I met up with Yula. Yula asked me to make a statement, and I accepted. I also want to take this opportunity to wish the Panamanian community a very Merry Christmas.

[Londono] Likewise, we wish the same to you, Mr. Solicitor General. One last question: Is there a requirement to advise the attorney general of his removal as was done with Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena?

[Ballesteros] I sent a note to the attorney general with a copy of my decision.

[Londono] So he was advised of his removal?

[Ballesteros] He certainly was.

[Londono] Thank you very much, Mr. Solicitor General.

Cruz Denounces Government Officials as 'Criminals'

PA2712003692 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Panama City, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE)— Estranged Attorney General Rogelio Cruz on 26 December described important government officials who belong to the governing Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena] as criminals and accused them of acts of corruption amounting to "millions and millions of dollars."

Cruz was separated from his post on 24 December and is under house arrest after being accused by Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros of releasing in an irregular manner $38 million deposited in the accounts of alleged drug traffickers.

During a news conference at his home, Cruz accused Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena and Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles of being part of "the corruption that is clinging to the government and hurting the country."

"These criminals in the government," Cruz denounced, "have been able to separate me from my post" and will try "to keep me away from it for two or three months so they will have time to get rid of the results of the investigations that the Attorney General's Office has carried out on their irregular activities."

Cruz added: "There is a big, grave political problem that involves millions of dollars, and I was on to those problems." Cruz gave no details about the corruption money or on how the corruption began. He accused Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena of acting as "a criminal in many cases" because he "permitted the arrival and departure of dollars, drugs, and smuggled goods." The fact that only 22 files on irregular activities were opened this year demonstrates that, Cruz said.

Cruz accused Comptroller General Carles of allowing corruption and Panama City Mayor Mayin Correa of having legal problems. Cruz noted that Panamanian President Guillermo Endara knew about this and said: "I asked him not to intervene."

Cruz also denounced Judicial Technical Police Director Jaime Abad, accusing him of having an "outright disregard" for orders and of having "manipulated" Supreme Court of Justice President Carlos Lucas Lopez in the controversial case involving the death of a man who served in the military during the Noreiga regime.

Cruz also mentioned Molirena Deputy Leo Gonzalez, chairman of the legislative commission investigating drug trafficking matters. Cruz said Gonzalez has not paid "nor has he wanted to pay" taxes on two power plants he brought into the country two years ago.

Cruz also said other government officials, whose name or rank he did not reveal, "could be jailed" because of their involvement in corruption.

Cruz made that statement after announcing that he has withdrawn the habeas corpus and protection recourses he had presented at the Supreme Court because he had noticed that the president of the court was politically "biased."

He said he withdrew those two recourses. "I want the Supreme Court to try me publicly within 15 days so I can be face to face with my accuser, Solicitor General Ballesteros, who has no evidence backing the charges filed against me," he stated.

Cruz said "the country cannot wait" to see this situation resolved because "the nation's attorney general is on trial: Justice is passing judgment on the law."

Regarding President Guillermo Endara's conduct throughout this affair, Cruz said Endara has always defended the principle of no political intervention in judicial matters, "but this policy has not been followed by other people."

Cruz noted: "The president's role has been fundamental in keeping politics out of justice since I assumed the post of attorney general. His participation has been passive and very wise; that of others, however, has been the exact opposite."

Cruz said that when he was elected to his post, Molirena members told him he should investigate the members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, which cogoverned with overthrown General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Cruz explained: "When the Christian Democratic Party withdrew from the government, I was asked to harass its members judicially. I paid no attention. The campaign against me was initiated when I began investigating Molirena members."

Arosemena, Carles Deny Charges

PA2712180192 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Dec 92 p 1-A

[Text] Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena said on 26 December that charges by suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz against members of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena, are not true. Arosemena warned he will say everything he knows about Cruz if the public hearing requested by Cruz is held.

Arosemena said Cruz can label him a criminal (as he already did on 25 December) with all the known adjectives in the dictionary, because Cruz knows he is the only person who has hindered Arosemena's handling of money.

"Cruz has told his friends that he was the only person who could seize, freeze, and release money—then along came this kid Rodrigo Arosemena who seized a container with $7 million inside," he said.

Arosemena warned that if a public hearing is held he will ask Cruz about the cars he "took," and about the origins of the thousands and thousands of dollars he is investing in his farm.

Regarding the issuance of previous permits, Arosemena stressed he has no regrets because it is a measure that is and will be practiced for the benefit of the national economy.

Meanwhile, Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles accused Cruz of lying in his accusations against Molirena members, and he urged him to name the beneficiaries of the accounts released by orders from his office.

Carles said Cruz now has the opportunity to prove the charges he has leveled, adding that the suspended attorney general is trying to deviate attention away from his own problems by making unfounded statements against Carles and other members of his party.

Eusebio Marchosky, president of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property (DRP) said there is sufficient proof to indict Cruz.

"The fact is that Cruz says the laws say one thing when he wants to persecute, but something else when he is in the middle," Marchosky said.

Marchosky believes Cruz can prove nothing against him, adding that because of his public position he is exposed to all types of insults.

Meanwhile, former first circuit Judge Luis Guillermo Zuniga denied the existence of a taped recording of an alleged conversation between himself and Donatilo Ballesteros, then magistrate of the second Superior Court of Justice, regarding the case of former Defense Force Colonel Marcos Justines.

Zuniga regretted, as did Cruz, the political interests that exist within the Supreme Court of Justice. He said that Chief Justice Carlos Lucas Lopez is a member of the Molirena Party and mentioned that one magistrate's alternate is a member of the Christian Democratic Party.

Vice President Ford Comments

PA2612225092 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2145 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Vice President Guillermo Ford by unidentified reporter in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Go ahead, Mr. Vice President.

[Ford] First I want to make it clear that a constitutional mandate outlines a separation of powers, and that does not allow me to state my opinion on the judicial branch or the Attorney General's Office.

I listened carefully to Mr. Rogelio Cruz' statement and found it really amazing. It is very difficult for me to comment on the matter until the Supreme Court of

Justice adjudicates the case, but I think Mr. Cruz' statement was pretty strong.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, what can you tell us as a member of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement considering that Mr. Cruz has filed serious charges against members of your party?

[Ford] I do not know what evidence Mr. Cruz has. He has said that he has some evidence. I believe that in Panama no one should be exempt from having to face the law if a crime is committed. I cannot give you an opinion on this case because Mr. Cruz did not mention any evidence. I believe he is talking about important people of my party, very important people. I repeat: Until Mr. Cruz and the Supreme Court of Justice resolve this situation, I cannot meddle. A constitutional mandate forbids me from meddling in Panama's judicial processes, and I am not going to do so.

[Reporter] Thank you for your statement, Mr. Vice President.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Terms UK Agreement 'Historic'

PY2512001992 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2216 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA)—It was officially reported today that the Argentine and British Governments have reached an agreement designed to regulate squid fishing in the South Atlantic area, and to allow joint scientific investigations by means of a binational cruiser that will operate freely in the exclusion zone imposed around the Malvinas Islands.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella described the signing of the agreement as an "historic" event, and noted that this was "the most major" step taken in bilateral relations since the Malvinas Islands conflict ended in 1982.

In this manner, Argentina chose 45 of the 106 ships that had registered as being available for rent to Argentine companies, on the basis of the so-called charter system established in October, which revolutionized fishing in the South Atlantic.

Di Tella provided the details of the agreement during a news conference attended by Marcelo Regunaga, agriculture, livestock and fishing under secretary; Fernando Petrella, Foreign Ministry foreign policy director general; and Foreign Relations Under Secretary Rogelio Pfirter.

At a certain moment, Di Tella excused himself to the journalists in order to grant a telephone interview to the Malvinas Islands radio, to explain to the Kelpers the significance of the agreement.

He said: "Argentina is implementing a sound and successful economic policy, and therefore, the United Kingdom decided to talk with us about the possibility of regulating fishing in the South Atlantic. They knew that the windfall situation there could not last forever."

A point of the agreement deals with the need to regulate an expedition, carrying scientists of both countries on a ship flying the Argentine flag, in order to monitor squid fishing and thus prevent depredation and maintain the stock.

Di Tella said that the scientific expedition will be carried out aboard the Argentine ship "Captain Oca Balda," which will begin its investigations on 7 January during the visit which Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, will make to Argentina.

The scientists will closely follow the biological development of squid, even within the 150-mile exclusion zone imposed by the British Government around the Malvinas Islands since the end of the war.

Di Tella said: "When I talked to Malvinas journalist Patric Watts, I emphasized to him that we do not seek to engage in political or depredatory fishing. I know that the fishing regulation will cause a great loss to the islanders, but I think that he finally understood it."

The Argentine companies will mainly rent Japanese, Taiwanese, and Korean ships, which under the charter system, will be able to fish approximately 130,000 metric tons of squid.

Regunaga stated that the Argentine fishing companies will obtain an additional $100 million in economic benefits. He then pointed out the services and food supplies to be provided from now on at the ports of Mar del Plata, Bahia Blanca, and Patagonia.

He said: "More ships will stop at these ports following the adoption of deregulating measures. Foreign ships preferred to go to Montevideo and obtain their supplies on the high seas, because these ports were very expensive."

It has been also reported that the United Kingdom committed itself to not blocking the fishing agreement reached between Argentina and the EEC.

Companies Hold High Proportion of Foreign Debt

PY2612023892 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 16 Dec 92 pp 2-3

[Article by Julio Nudler—except where noted, expansion of company names unknown]

[Excerpt] The new foreign currency debts contracted by companies through the issuing of negotiable certificates [obligaciones negociables] total $1.8525 billion. On 6 November, however, $757.6 million in similar documents were still awaiting authorization by the National Values Commission. Therefore the total debt in 1992 could increase to $2.6101 billion. In addition to that, loans totalling $401.7 million were obtained through the sale of Eurobonuses and Eurocommercial Papers abroad. The entire package therefore totals more than $3 billion. To be more exact, it totals $3.0118 billion. On the one hand, this shows that the Argentine private sector is vigorously reinvesting in international capital markets. On the other hand, it means that the new Argentine foreign debt has surpassed, in less than 12 months in 1992, the $2.55 billion which, as a result of laborious negotiations, had been deducted from our foreign debt through the Brady Plan. Data obtained by this newspaper show that the proportion of foreign debt within the total financial liabilities of companies selling shares on the stock market is very high, and that this fact places these companies in a very vulnerable position should there be devaluation.

In large companies, the proportion of foreign debt to overall debt reaches surprisingly high levels. In the case of Sevel, it reaches 52.1 percent; Acindar [Argentine Steel Industry, Inc], 78.1 percent; Celulosa, 59.3 percent; Indupa, 83 percent; Molinos, 69.4 percent; Alpargatas,

55.6 percent; Siderca, 66.8 percent; Massuh, 73.6 percent; Comercial del Plata, 84.7 percent, and Pirelli, 51.1 percent, among others. [passage omitted]

Masnatta To Head National Auditing Office

PY2612175492 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] Lawyer Hector Masnatta, an expert in constitutional matters, has been appointed head of the National Auditing Office [Auditoria Nacional de la Nacion], which will start operating 4 January. This office replaces the Accounting Court [Tribunal de Cuentas].

With Masnatta's appointment, the government has resolved an unusual situation that emerged after the creation of the National Auditing Office, which was announced a few hours after the resignations of Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, Education Minister Antonio Salonia, and Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz were made official.

President Carlos Menem originally had offered the post to outgoing Radical Civic Union [UCR] Senator Juan Trilla, who decided to decline the offer after consulting several UCR officials.

Bolivia

Officers Possibly Working To 'Destabilize' Country

PY2512231392 La Paz HOY in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 7

[Excerpt] Navy Commander Miguel Alvarez Delgado said yesterday that there are groups within the Armed Forces who want to destabilize the country. He added that there is evidence of actions by some of the institution's officers, who were immediately put under questioning.

According to the information disclosed by the Navy chief, the situation of those involved is serious. Therefore, in compliance with internal regulations those allegedly involved in illegal activities were transferred to military justice. This means they will be included in the letter "E" (special destination in order to assume their defense).

Alvarez Delgado told HOY that those involved are officers who had lost all prestige, but who nonetheless have been operating within the institution, using anonymous names in pamphlets distributed among the officers of the three branches of the Armed Forces.

He added: "They are members of dangerous groups acting under orders from the outside to destabilize the high military command first and then the country."

He explained that the officers involved have been detected and identified, and that "the evidence is being unravelled." He added: "So far we have evidence that some officers are being questioned and investigated by military justice."

Alvarez Delgado said that when those involved are found guilty, the sanctions against them will be drastic "as our hands will not tremble in discharging them in accordance with our regulations and military laws."

Alvarez Delgado made no reference to the report made in this regard by the military advisor to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, who warned about a possible coup plan within the Bolivian Armed Forces.

He also did not specify if they belong to the four well-defined groups which were identified by U.S. media sources some time ago: "Red Hot," "Bolivarian Army," "Ten Stars," and "Dignity and Renewal." [passage omitted]

Forces Commander Denies Statements

PY2512234392 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 7

[Excerpt] One day after Navy Commander Miguel Alvarez reported the existence of military groups operating to destabilize the country, Armed Forces Commander Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti categorically denied yesterday the existence of "armed movements" in his institution.

Vargas Lorenzetti said: "I would like to categorically clarify that there are no armed movements in the country, and that such a situation will not arise. We members of the military institutions are aware of our constitutional duty to be freely and voluntarily subjected to the Constitution."

He added: "We in the military institutions have more important things to do than to think of destabilizing the country."

Navy Commander Alvarez reported on 15 December the existence of "dangerous military groups operating to destabilize the high military command, the Armed Forces, and the entire country."

According to spokesmen of the high military command, because of his comments Alvarez was severely reprimanded by the Armed Forces commander, "who was very annoyed when he read his comments in the press." [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Extradition Treaty With U.S.

PY2412200492 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez has commented on the possibility of a new extradition treaty with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez has confirmed that the administration has decided to begin negotiating with the United States to reexamine the extradition treaty between the two countries. He said, however, that it will be up to Foreign Minister MacLean,

once he returns from Chile, to announce the beginning of the negotiations and the procedure they will follow, as well as the mechanisms through which the public will be kept informed about this new treaty.

[Fernandez] The Foreign Ministry communique makes it clear that the Bolivian Government has an extradition treaty with the United States signed in 1900, that this treaty has been added to through the Vienna Convention, and that the actual implementation of these two covenants reveals certain limitations which need to be examined in the negotiations that the Foreign Ministry will begin. Information has been gathered on the subject, and it must be evaluated. [end recording]

Bolivian law is being complied with, and the drug traffickers who have repented must be treated according to the law. According to Minister Fernandez, the seven Bolivians who surrendered under the provisions of Suprme Decree 22.881, which was valid for 120 days, cannot be extradited to the United States.

The government has decided to negotiate a new extradition treaty that will satisfy both the United States and Bolivia. The Foreign Ministry has been entrusted with this task.

U.S. Embassy Statement on Extradition Rejected

PY2512162592 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] The Bolivian Government yesterday rejected a U.S. Embassy statement that raised questions about its political commitment to punishing drug trafficking crimes.

In an official communique released by the Foreign Ministry, the Bolivian Government also reiterated its support for international antidrug agreements.

The statement from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz says: "The decision raises questions about the sincerity of the commitment by the Supreme Court and the Bolivian Government to strictly comply with precedents concerning leading drug traffickers." PRESENCIA did not receive a copy of this statement despite having contacted some embassy officials to inquire if there would be a reaction to the Supreme Court decision.

The Foreign Ministry communique states that the Supreme Court issued its 15 December decision—which denied the extradition of alleged drug trafficker Ronald Iriarte—"in its capacity as an independent branch of government."

The Supreme Court decision was based on the 1900 Treaty, and not on the 1988 Vienna Convention, which already punishes drug trafficking crimes.

Iriarte is regarded as "a big fish" in the drug cartels. Every piece of evidence produced against Iriarte to prove his drug trafficking crimes came from the United States, whose officials believe a criminal case should be opened against him.

In accordance with U.S. laws, Iriarte should be tried for violating the law against marketing illegal drugs.

The Foreign Ministry states that the executive branch complied with the required steps to have the Supreme Court hear the extradition request filed by the U.S. Government, "but only the Supreme Court has express jurisdiction over extradition cases."

Foreign Ministry sources have said that coordinated efforts must be undertaken by Justice Under Secretary Alberto Luna and Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico to draft a new extradition treaty that would include drug trafficking and terrorism.

Interior Minister Reviews U.S. Antinarcotics Aid

PY2412202692 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Report by unidentified reporter from Cochabamba]

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra yesterday visited Cochabamba and spoke about U.S. economic aid for combating drug trafficking. Although it is true that Bolivia received $20 million for anti-drug trafficking aid in 1992, the minister said, it is not necessary that Bolivia receive the same amount in 1993; it may accept $20 million because Bolivia has and will continue demonstrating that it can fight drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] Regarding financing the anti-drug trafficking effort, I think that our country must be [words indistinct] in the volumes given in the past. For example, we were given $20 million for the struggle against drug trafficking. We must do (the same work with) the same money. Therefore, if they want to give us credit, that is, $10 million, it is exactly the same to us.

What we really need, and that is why relations with the United States are important, is an agreement to further promote alternative development and the economy in general to transform the illegal economy into a legal one. [end recording]

The minister told the Cochabamba media that the government has all the potential to fight drug trafficking with less money. Is this true? Or is it mere demagoguery to demonstrate that the government is fighting drug trafficking? The truth is that it has been demonstrated that many drug trafficking chiefs are currently in jail.

Brazil

Impeachment Chairman Maintains 29 Dec Trial Date

PY2412190492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Justice Sidney Sanches, impeachment committee chairman, has maintained the impeachment date scheduled for 29 December. He gave a 48-hour period to the prosecuting lawyers to express their opinion on the designation of a new defense lawyer.

The request by suspended President Fernando Collor to designate Jose de Moura Rocha as his new lawyer was already submitted to the Senate.

By last night, Moura Rocha had already submitted two documents to impeachment notary Guido Carvalho. One of the documents refers to his own designation as Collor's lawyer. The other is a request for a 30-day period for the defense to become acquainted with the process and the dismissal of lawyer Inocencio Martires Coelho, designated by Supreme Federal Court President Sidney Sanches as a result of the dismissal of the lawyers who had been following the case. [passage omitted]

Collor Tries For Further Delay

PY2812122892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Suspended President Fernando Collor on 26 December resorted to his last legal appeal in an effort to postpone the impeachment process scheduled for 29 December. He filed an injunction with the Federal Supreme Court [STF], in which he requests that his new lawyer Jose de Moura Rocha be qualified to act in the process. He also asks for a 30-day deadline for the defense. STF member Sepulveda Pertence will make a decision today on the preliminary order.

Senate Approves Agreement With Creditor Banks

PY2412201992 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Dec 92 Section 1 p 8

[Text] On 21 December, the Senate approved Senator Jose Fogaca's (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul) bill on Brazil's debt with foreign banks. Forty-two senators voted for the bill and two voted against it.

The bill accepts the clauses that [suspended President Fernando] Collor's last economic team, led by Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira, agreed upon with the Steering Committee of Banks in July. The bill makes it clear that the overall final agreement will have to be reexamined by the Senate.

The agreement provides for the renegotiation of $44 billion worth of medium- and long-term debts. This amount represents almost one- third of Brazil's overall foreign debt.

No date has been set yet for Brazilian ministers to travel to the site of negotiations in order to continue discussing the agreement. They were supposed to travel early in December, but President Franco canceled the trip of Minister Paulo Haddad and then-Finance Minister Gustavo Krause.

All amendments to the bill proposed by Senator Eduardo Suplicy (Workers Party-Sao Paulo) were rejected.

Foreign Creditors To Receive $4.4 Billion in 1993

PY2412235592 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Dec 92 p 27

[Text] Brasilia—In 1993 Brazil will pay its foreign creditors, including the IMF, private banks, and the Paris Club, $4.4 billion—that is, $800 million less than the $5.2 billion that were paid out this year to service the country's public debt. The Brazilian Government will make its first payment—$170 million—to private creditors in January, in keeping with the clauses of the foreign debt renegotiation agreement that the federal Senate approved on 21 December. The Central Bank expects that between 1993 and 1995, the country will pay out $14.4 billion. According to Central Bank Chairman Gustavo Loyola, the approval of the renegotiations agreement means that Brazil's relations with the international community have returned to normal.

The $170 million that will be paid at the beginning of 1993 represents the difference between the agreed-upon increase from 30 percent to 50 percent of the interest due from 9 July, when the agreement was reached in New York, to 21 December, when the Senate approved it. The difference in the interest rates due between January and July 1992, which also amounts to some $170 million, may be paid within 10 weeks, provided by then at least 95 percent of the creditor banks—the so-called critical mass—state their options, that is, choose the bonds that they will take in exchange for the debt that has been renegotiated. If the critical mass is not reached, Brazil will postpone this payment until 31 July or even 30 November 1993.

Franco Sanctions Law Readjusting Salaries

PY2612133492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Dec 92 p 16

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco sanctioned on 23 December the law establishing a new salary policy for private sector workers and Social Welfare retirees and pensioners. Those receiving up to 7,504,200 cruzeiros in January will be entitled to bi-monthly advance payments of 60 percent of the inflation rate accumulated during the previous two months. They also are entitled to readjustments every four months. In accordance with the new law, not only those who receive up to three minimum wages, but also those who receive up to six minimum wages are entitled to advanced payments and readjustments. The law also establishes that the minimum salary for January is 1,250,700 cruzeiros.

The minimum salary and welfare benefits also will include bi-monthly advance payments and readjustments every four months. However, in the case of retirees and pensioners, the percentages will have an impact on the overall value of benefits, independently of their value. This is because the Law on Costs and Welfare Benefits establishes that readjustment percentages will be equal for all retirees, not allowing any difference in benefit values.

A readjustment of 135 percent already has been guaranteed for retirees and pensioners as of 1 January. This readjustment will be paid with a monetary correction in the beginning of February. For private company workers who earn monthly salaries higher than six times the minimum salary, the readjustment or advance payments of the parcel that surpasses that amount will depend on free negotiations between employers and employees.

The first advance payment to be made on the minimum salary and retirement salaries will be implemented in March, and it will amount to 60 percent of the variation accrued in January and February in the Minimum Salary Readjustment Index (IRSM), which is calculated by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The four-month readjustment will be applied in May, and it will be equivalent to the difference between the IRSM between January and April and the advance payments granted in March. The law does not foresee any real increase for the minimum salary, although the government has expressed its intention to grant an additional percentage next May.

The new law maintains the same system of readjustments for workers from private companies. For this they are divided into four groups, with different months assigned for the bi-monthly advance payments and the four-month readjustments. The difference is that as of January 1993, readjustments will be calculated based on the amount of up to six times the minimum salary instead of the current three times the minimum salary.

Interim President Issues New Privatization Rules

PY2612182092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Dec 92 Economic Section p 3

[Article by Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia—Interim Brazilian President Itamar Franco yesterday signed a decree changing the privatization rules. According to the decree, whoever decides to purchase the company to be privatized must pay in Brazilian currency (cruzeiros) at least the value of the accrued profits recorded in the balance of the last fiscal year and in the balance of the current fiscal year up to the date of the evaluation.

"The liquidation value of goods and rights not related to the company's operational activities" will also be added to that amount. The decree adds that if the sum of those values exceeds the minimum price set by the commission in charge of the National Privatization Program (PND), "it will be paid fully in Brazilian currency."

The announcement of the rule changes was made by Consultant General Jose de Castro at Planalto Palace. He explained that the issue of foreign currency that must be used in the privatization process will be established in the draft bill that will probably be submitted to Congress in March. Jose de Castro added that the decree signed yesterday by Itamar Franco was issued to patch up some gaps and to maintain the premise established by the president for privatization: "more expeditiousness, more openness, and more security."

The consultant general said that no privatization will be a wholesale process. "Each case will be treated separately." Concerning the auctioning of the Ultrafertil company, he voiced assurances that it will take place on the established date, and that the evaluations will be handed over to the government in the available time.

The decree establishes that "if there is a difference lower than 20 percent concerning the minimum price among the already adjusted evaluations, the commission in charge will decide on the best offer. If there is a difference equal to or higher than 20 percent, the commission must choose the best offer or sign a new contract, through a public bidding, for a new evaluation."

Another article of the decree establishes that reports on the evaluation must take into account the economic value, the patrimonial value, the liquidation value, and, if appropriate, the acquisition value and the value of the goods that will replace those that are to be sold.

The consultant general added that the period of "secret evaluations has ended," referring to the evaluation of companies to be privatized. Only that information considered secret for industrial or commercial activities will be excluded from publication.

Whoever wants to purchase a government company will have to respect nature. Article Nine of the decree establishes that "the company that will purchase the shares of the company to be privatized will have to expressly make the necessary investments to recover the environment, which already was considered in the establishment of the minimum sale price."

The following are the rules to be adopted in the scheduled privatizations :

—The use of Brazilian currency (cruzeiros) in the purchase of state companies cannot be lower than the sum of the profits accrued by the company during the last fiscal year and the current fiscal year, plus the value of goods and rights not linked to operational activities. If the sum of such profits exceeds the minimum price established by the PND commission board, it will be paid fully in Brazilian currency.

—The evaluation reports on the company to be sold will include the economic value, the patrimonial value, the

liquidation value, and, if it is the case, the acquisition value and the value of goods that will be sold.

—The number of consulting companies that will conduct the economic and financial evaluation of companies to be privatized is increased from two to three. These companies will set the minimum prices of said companies.

—The results of said evaluations will be broadly publicized to society.

—The purchasing company will be forced to make the necessary investments for the recovery and preservation of the environment, considered in the economic-financial evaluation.

—The purchasing company also must pay, within 20 working days, fines and punishments imposed for damage caused to the environment.

—The president of the state company to be privatized will participate in the PND board meetings during which the evaluation of his company will be analyzed.

Chile

Officials Report on Australia, New Zealand Visit

PY2512112792 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Dec 92 p C3

[Text] The easing of phytosanitary restrictions, future business missions to our country, and agreements on air transport and agricultural cooperation are among the most salient accomplishments of the recent Chilean official mission to Australia and New Zealand.

This information was provided during a news conference at La Moneda by Edgardo Boeninger, minister secretary general of the presidency; Edmundo Vargas, foreign affairs under secretary; and Maximiliano Cox, agriculture under secretary, who were part of the aforementioned Chilean mission that visited Australia and New Zealand between 24 November and 4 December.

The three government officials stated that the trip is part of the government's policy geared to stepping up the Chilean presence in the Asian Pacific region.

This mission was undertaken by express order of the president, who was unable to include Australia and New Zealand in his schedule during his recent visit to that area last November.

The members of the official delegation further stated that they made high-level contacts with the Australian and New Zealand Governments, their respective parliaments, entrepreneurs, universities, and the press with a view to making the Chilean political and economic status better known, as well as discussing issues of common interest.

Boeninger said Chile's aspirations to gain access to the Asian Pacific region necessarily imply having good relations with nations such as Australia and New Zealand, which are the catalysts of trans-Pacific cooperation agreements and have made large investments in Chile.

Boeninger went on to say that during his visit he was able to note that both countries shared the view that it was necessary to step up trade and investments, reciprocity in high-level visits, ongoing consultations between their respective foreign ministries, and scientific and technological cooperation, among other things.

Boeninger pointed out that Australian and New Zealand officials were quite receptive to Chile's interest in joining APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), the region's main intergovernmental forum.

He added that our country wishes to join APEC on account of being a Pacific Rim country open to the other countries of the Pacific Ocean basin and in order to establish "connections" between Southeast Asia and the Americas.

Boeninger also mentioned that both Australia and New Zealand are very much concerned about the possibility of the emergence of economic blocs—thus alluding to the EEC and NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]—that do not follow free trade precepts.

He stated that Chile is very much opposed to the establishment of blocs and that it advocates an opening of economies through a multilateral trade system.

The Chilean delegation told its interlocutors that it was necessary to keep the Cairns Group alive so that it may serve as a forum for commodities-exporting countries to solve possible conflicts, coordinate viewpoints, and undertake joint operations in third markets. Australia, Chile, and New Zealand are Cairns Group members.

Boeninger underlined the fact that the Chilean delegation briefed Australian and New Zealand officials on the need to have an efficient network of airline connections among countries in order to boost tourism and trade.

To this effect, Boeninger signed an agreement with his New Zealand counterpart by virtue of which LAN-Chile [Chilean National Airlines] is authorized to fly to Auckland. Moreover, the Chilean delegation once again told the Australian Government that LAN-Chile was interested in extending its current services from Tahiti to Sydney, including fifth-freedom rights [derechos de quinta libertad] from Papeete, Tahiti.

Government Appoints New Valparaiso Governor

PY2412224692 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Dec 92 p C2

[Summary] The government has appointed Hardy Knittel Villarroel, current cabinet chief of the provincial

governorship, as the new governor of Valparaiso, replacing Luciano Valle, who resigned to run for a congressional position.

Appoints Air Force Command Chief

PY2412234192 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 12 Dec 92 p 20

[Summary] Brigadier General Jaime Estay Vivero was installed yesterday as the new commander of the Air Force Logistical Command, replacing General Jorge Iturriaga Moreira, who has been appointed chief of the Chilean Air Mission in Washington.

Appoints Army Division Commander

PY2412233192 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p C4

[Summary] Brigadier General Juan Stuven Silva has been installed as the new commander of the First Army Division in Antofagasta. He is replacing Brigadier General Ricardo Izurieta Caffarena, who will be the commander of the Military Institutes.

Energy Commission Chair Advocates No Nuclear Power

PY2612012492 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Dec 92 p C5

[Report by Ivan Fredes Guerrero from Temuco]

[Excerpt] Jaime Toha, chairman of the National Energy Commission, has advocated a national policy that does not propose any construction or operation of nuclear plants as an alternative to meeting Chilean energy needs.

Toha said that the current administration does not plan to build nuclear plants because of their high cost and their impact on the environment. He emphasized the importance of drafting a government policy that does not contemplate such a possibility either in the short or medium term.

Toha added that Chile has enough means to meet its energy needs through the use of hydroelectric, thermoelectric, and geothermal resources, among other alternative sources of energy. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Rebel Attack in Putumayo Claims Seven Soldiers

PA2512231892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] As 20 soldiers were traveling from Puerto Asis to Orito, Putumayo Department on the early morning of 24 December, a dynamite charge buried under the road exploded. The explosion killed six young men instantaneously and injured 12. A survivor of the explosion died later in the afternoon.

The soldiers were patrolling the area by truck. They were bachelors from various parts of the country and regular soldiers scheduled to leave the Army in three months.

Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board rebels killed them off after the explosion. The soldiers lost their weapons in the clash which, according to the survivors, lasted three hours. Many of the soldiers died at the hands of the guerrillas and not as a result of the explosion.

Eleven survivors are in serious condition and efforts are being made to save their lives at the Military Hospital in Santa Fe de Bogota. They are young men, not over 20 years old. Some were maimed and will never walk again.

Commander Admits 'Tactical Errors'

PA2712191692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] After personally inspecting the Putumayo Department area where eight soldiers were killed, Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman said the Army did commit tactical errors that permitted the guerrilla ambush.

[Begin Guzman recording] The terrain is very difficult and there are important roads that need better security. Other important aspects were also disregarded—especially at night—dealing with troop movements. [end recording]

Gen. Guzman referred to the suit presented by Francisco Galan at the Attorney General's Office. Galan, who is an ELN [Army of National Liberation] commander, said he had been raped and sexually abused by several 5th Brigade soldiers.

[Begin Guzman recording] I think that is false. This is part of the show they are trying to set up to divert attention. The ELN is trying to tell the country a story that differs from the real events, which are very clear and which were timely reported when they took place. [end recording]

Regarding the case of Colonel Guillermo Lora, who spoke out against the Army, Gen. Guzman said that Lora's dismissal is fair.

[Begin Guzman recording] The officer's most obvious mistake was to speak out and say that he disagreed with the way we operate. Military discipline was disregarded—military rules—and that is why he was punished and discharged. [end recording]

Lastly, the Army commander announced that military garrisons in the Putumayo Department area will be reinforced to prevent further casualties.

Col Lora Dismissed After Making Charges

PA2612191692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] In his first statement since his dismissal, Colonel Guillermo Lora pointed out that he still has a few things to say.

On 26 December Col. Guillermo Lora again attacked the Army. He said there is some apparent willingness to make changes as a result of the charges he has raised concerning high-ranking military commanders.

[Begin Lora recording] In the last five days, I have spoken for 90 minutes each with two generals. At the end of the conversations, they told me: Colonel, you have a great task ahead. You started this. Do you want to continue it? I answered them: General, this process is under way right now. They told me: Very well, congratulations, go ahead. [end recording]

Lora said he is not sorry for what he said but that he is afraid because he has received death threats.

[Begin Lora recording] I may even have to pay for this with my life. I do not care. At present, Guillermo Lora is a vehicle for transmitting an idea. [end recording]

The charges raised by Col. Lora, who says everyone knows what he is talking about but no one dares to speak out, seek a thorough change in how resources are allocated to the troops. Lora insists that the soldiers suffer under inhumane conditions on the battlefield, while generals drive Mercedes Benz automobiles in the cities.

[Begin Lora recording] I am awakening the conscience of the Armed Forces and of the country. [end recording]

The truth is that Col. Lora was dismissed from his post by means of a presidential decree.

Escobar Associates Advise Against Surrender

PA2712042392 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Dec 92 p 6A

[Text] Pablo Escobar's 12 closest accomplices, who are confined at the Itagui maximum security prison, on 19 December advised him and all other persons planning to surrender to the authorities not to do so until their complaints about prison conditions are heard and acted upon.

Taking advantage of the presence of a large number of reporters at the prison gate who were awaiting Escobar's reported surrender, the inmates handed out a letter addressed to Antioquia Governor Juan Gomez Martinez and Medellin mayor Luis Alfredo Ramos requesting that a commission be appointed to study prison conditions. The prisoners said they are willing to abide by the regulations and contribute to peace.

Their complaints include a reduction in benefits and visits by their wives and children, control of incoming food, and alleged mistreatment of their wives. They also reported a lack of electricity after 1800, lack of direct communication with their defense attorneys, and lack of adequate places to sun or work. "We know we are not in a club, but we are not living in the time of the Inquisition, either," they argued.

The letter also denied a rumor that circulated on the night of 19 December about a rebellion in the prison. They explained that only one inmate was involved but declined to mention his name. Prison authorities also refused to comment on the incident.

The inmates say they are the only people in the world who willingly surrendered to the authorities after they were dislodged from the former prison by gunfire.

The 12 inmates—five did not escape from La Catedral prison, and seven were at large for seven months but surrendered again—were transferred from the municipal prison in Itagui to the Justice Ministry's maximum security prison in the same municipality on 15 December.

Brothers Fabio, Juan David, and Jorge Luis Ochoa, as well as the paramilitary man Otoniel Vanegas, are still being held at the municipal prison.

Socialist Renewal Condemns CNG 'Terrorist' Actions

PA2812031192 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Dec 92 p 13a

[Text] On 21 December, the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS], a dissident faction of the Army of National Liberation [ELN], strongly condemned attacks carried out by the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] against the civilian population and called on the organization to stop its terrorist actions.

"We do not agree that children and young people who are just beginning their lives should be sacrificed. We demand that our ELN comrades correct their military actions for the good of the Colombian revolution and that terrorist actions be stopped."

The CRS statements were included in a communique that was signed by Jacinto Ruiz and Gabriel Borja and sent to several media representatives on 22 December. The Army has reported that the communique is authentic.

The communique strongly criticizes the military procedures used by the CNG and calls them insane.

"Today more than ever, we are convinced that the revolutionary ineptitude and inefficiency of comrades Manuel Perez Martinez and Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista are threatening to take the guerrilla movement to its defeat. Their stubbornness in continuing to use indiscriminate military practices will cause them to lose all acceptance and support...."

The communique also refers to the arrest of Francisco Galan [Gerardo Bermudez Sanchez], the ELN National Directorate's fourth commander.

"We cannot deny that we had known for a long time that such an event would occur. We warned comrade Francisco Galan several times—when we fought with the ELN—to curb his actions and sordid habits because they could take him to his death. Our warnings, however, were not heeded, and now we are confronted with the consequences of his immaturity," the communique states.

It adds that Galan's arrest is a harsh blow to the military and political structure of the terrorist organization.

The CRS members reaffirm their desire for peace in the communique: "We are sure the solution to the current conflict will not be attained with bullets but with sincere and reasoned talks, which will result in the peaceful coexistence of Colombians. [no ending quotation mark as published]

The CRS has its origins with the ELN and was promoted by several guerrillas who wanted to join the political opening proposed by former socialist leaders in Eastern Europe.

Car Bomb Explosion Leaves Three Dead in Medellin

PA2512231792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Report by Lyda Maria Vanegas in Medellin]

[Text] Now, more than ever, Antioquia residents are growing restless because of the violent war taking place in Medellin, where again, the weakest come out losers. The terrorists did not even respect the peace of Christmas night. They consolidated their reputation of being cruel and of being people who have even lost the meaning of the December holidays. Instead, they sowed anguish with their attack on the evening of 24 December.

Antioquia residents had hoped there would at least be peace on that evening, but it was not to be. Three people died before they could finish celebrating Christmas and 14 were injured and taken to different hospitals in the city after a car bomb loaded with 80 kg of dynamite exploded at approximately 2300 in a residential sector in western Medellin.

As in all attacks of this sort, it is presumed that the target was the security apparatus because the residence of the Antioquia police chief is two blocks from the site of the explosion. Official sources said the device exploded unexpectedly before reaching its destination. Antioquia residents now cannot trust that this Christmas will have a happy ending.

Paraguay

Armed Forces Confined to Barracks for Elections

PY2412153092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Dec 92 p 13

[Text] A high-ranking military source reported yesterday that Armed Forces members will be confined to their barracks as of noon today to safeguard the normal development of all activities nationwide.

The measure was adopted to safeguard peace and order in view of eventual disorders that may occur as a result of the aggressive political campaign currently under way within the framework of the Colorado party primaries that will be held on 27 December.

Troops from the different Armed Forces units started preparations yesterday. They will remain in their barracks until the end of the Colorado party primaries on 27 December. The source did not specify whether this decision affects all Armed Forces branches, but it was explained that on election day soldiers and officers will be allowed to vote to fulfill their civic duty. Moreover, some soldiers will be assigned to voting stations to safeguard the normal development of the election process. In addition, there may be some troop movements to safeguard the population.

The source stated that the Armed Forces hope the Colorado Party primaries will be clean and open, without any violence or incidents that may tarnish the Colorado Party elections.

More Safeguard Measures Issued

PY2612144692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Dec 92 p 11

[Excerpt] A series of measures issued by the Interior Ministry to safeguard the Colorado Party primaries will be enforced from 0000 [0300 GMT] to 1900 on 27 December. Troops from different Army units have been confined to their barracks until the end of the Colorado Party primaries with the same objective and to protect society from any eventual disorders.

The Interior Ministry has instructed the Asuncion police and the different Government Delegates' Offices to implement the necessary measures to safeguard the normal development of the Colorado primaries.

Heads of the different police departments nationwide have been instructed to draft a special task plan for 27 December, and to select the officials who will be commissioned to the different voting sites with the objective of safeguarding peace and order, guaranteeing the circulation of voters, and, in particular, cooperating with the electoral officials of each district.

According to the Interior Ministry measures, public gatherings of groups or individuals will not be allowed on 27 December within a radius of 200 meters from voting stations.

In addition, it is strictly forbidden to sell alcoholic beverages within a radius of 200 meters from voting stations.

These measures, which will be enforced from 0000 to 1900 on 27 December, were adopted by the Interior Ministry in response to a request made by the Asuncion Electoral Court through notes recently submitted to Police Chief German Franco Vargas and Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia. [repetitive passage omitted]

Argana Leads in Exit Poll, Unofficial Figures

PY2712210292 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 2027 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Here I have the results of the exit poll conducted by Radio Nanduti and TIEMPO 14. Nearly 15,000 individuals throughout the country were consulted. These are the numbers:

Ticket No. 2, Wasmosy-Seifart: 42.8 percent;

Ticket No. 3, Diaz de Vivar-Frutos: 8.76 percent;

Ticket No. 4, Argana-Ibanez: 47.88 percent; and

Ticket No. 5: 0.65 percent.

These figures, according to the Radio Nanduti and TIEMPO 14 exit poll, show that Luis Maria Argana has won by 5.08 percent.

[Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish at 2120 GMT on 27 December carries the following report:

["Daniel Andersen, chief of the Sistema Nacional de Television computer system, has brought us some figures. Out of a total of 1,871 votes, ticket No. 2 of Juan Carlos Wasmosy-Angel Roberto Seifart obtained 767 votes, or 40.99 percent; ticket No. 3 of Gustavo Diaz de Vivar-Julio Cesar Frutos obtained 145 votes, or 7.75 percent; ticket No. 4 of Luis Maria Argana-Juan Bautista Ybanez obtained 957 votes, or 51.15 percent; and ticket No. 5 of Carlos Jorge Fretes Davalos-Ada de Acosta obtained 2 votes, or 0.11 percent. These figures are entirely unofficial."]

Colorado Electoral Board Gives Preliminary Results

PY2812030192 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0220 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Report by Benjamin Fernandez and Stella Rufinelli from Colorado Party headquarters]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] Here at Colorado Party headquarters we can report that party electoral board members Marciano Torales, Delgadillo, and Jaime Bestard remain, while members Bobadilla, Paredes, and Ida Fleitas de Hermosa have left the headquarters, stating that the vote tally closed at 2300 [0200 GMT] and that it would continue tomorrow morning.

According to our calculations, 78 voting stations with 1,343 ballot boxes have so far been tallied in six hours. There still remain to be counted 173 voting stations with 4,315 ballot boxes. If we continue to wait, 18 hours remain before the vote count can be concluded. For this reason this will be the conclusion of this transmission. The following is a report by Stella Rufinelli.

[Rufinelli] [passage omitted] The final results released by the Colorado Party Electoral Board, shown on this giant screen at 2325, demonstrate at a nationwide level that there are 62,091 votes for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, 9,891 for the Diaz de Vivar Frutos ticket, 69,371 votes for the Argana-Ibanez ticket, and 292 votes for Fretes Davalos. This means that Argana is five points ahead of Wasmosy. These were the last poll results released to the public. [passage omitted]

General Oviedo Interviewed on Elections, Democracy

PY2812010092 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1245 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Interview with Division General Lino Cesar Oviedo, 1st Corps commander, by reporter Benjamin Fernandez; Fernandez interviews Oviedo, whose location is not given, from Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Text] [Fernandez] Good morning, General. Benjamin Fernandez greets you from the Colorado Party headquarters. You have been particularly explicit about what you expect from democracy. Do you think the country's destiny lies in the balance today, pitting those who want democracy against those who want a return to dictatorship?

[Oviedo] Good morning, Mr. Benjamin Fernandez. Thank you for your deference in asking me my humble opinion as a citizen, and as a person who has made a small contribution to democracy. Naturally, we still have some remnants of the past around, individuals who like authoritarianism, patronage, the autocratic system of government, and the statism that generates corruption, degeneration, hate, and unhappiness. We still have people who do not like democracy, and who hate the social market economy system and free enterprise. These people have ransacked the country. They belonged to an arrogant and rapacious elite. They still have a lot of money, and are using the evil metal extracted from the people to try to manipulate people's consciences. I can honestly tell you that some of these people are working in some Colorado Party factions. You know from the press who is who in Paraguay. The people know this too. Do you think I am going to support those who condoned the dictatorship from their positions in the judicial branch?

[Fernandez] General, is this also a clear message about the behavior of the Armed Forces, in the hypothetical case that some of these authoritarian or nostalgic groups want to impose their will on the country again?

[Oviedo] I assure you that the Paraguayan people and the Armed Forces—democratically, without a need to resort to any other action, and with the help of the press—are going to consolidate our dear democracy through our votes, and under the protection of our Constitution, as dictated by Articles 117, 118, and 119. Paraguay cannot become an island and turn against democracy and free enterprise, something that all human beings want.

[Fernandez] General, why do these authoritarian and nostalgic people still have room to act freely in the country? What was not done correctly to definitively eradicate them?

[Oviedo] It is very simple. They still have followers because of the fortunes they gathered after ransacking the country. Just imagine, the country was left with a $2 billion foreign debt, and we are not sure how the money was used. There are still many documents that will reveal things. We have to discover those responsible, unveil those who are really responsible for the dictatorship. Many of them have been identified, but others still move about unnoticed. That money, that devilish money, created some weak and notorious citizens who have used the dictatorship for their own benefit.

[Fernandez] The discovery this week of important documents describing the era of terror, persecution, and death should serve as an element in definitively doing away with those who want to return to the old system.

[Oviedo] Of course, we have to bring all these things to light, and inform everyone about those facts. This is the real meaning of democracy. Democracy must shed light, be clear, and make the people witness, so that they can decide their own destinies. The press must fully inform people about these facts so that everyone can find out what really happened in the country. In this way we can gain experience and never again go back to that past. All of us should be witnesses and participate in building our country. We should not let a small group of authoritarian individuals use coercion and money to manipulate the consciences or purchase the minds of individuals for obscure purposes. These things have only created poverty and foreign debt, and have forced international organizations to stop all credits to the country. This is what we are suffering today. We must overcome these difficulties and address the real problems of the country, such as poverty. We must pursue our well being and a better distribution of wealth, not the accumulation of wealth by a small group of people. This is what most people want.

[Fernandez] Do you believe that [former President Alfredo] Stroessner is behind one of the movements you are identifying? Or is it only his followers who want to return to the old system?

[Oviedo] I can say this much: His money is disseminated throughout the country, everywhere. He still thinks that money is the basic element to keep a dictatorship going. However, this is no longer so, Benjamin. They will not be able to purchase people's consciences even if they use all the wealth they have taken from the country, because individuals have been hurt in their hearts. Paraguayans will stop eating, but they will defend democracy. This is my humble opinion as a citizen, Benjamin. [Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de] Francia consolidated our freedoms by closing all the borders, and the people resisted, planting manioc and cultivating their own food. This is why I am fully confident that we will all help each other to defeat dictatorship. Only by defeating dictatorship can we consolidate democracy, improve our standard of living, defeat poverty, and be able to live a dignified and respected life. Only then will we be able to use our right to a voice and a vote to freely denounce any coercion or pressure. This is why democracy is so good. It is the best political system in effect in the free world today.

[Fernandez] Many people say things were better in the past. They say that all the problems like poverty, recession, social problems, and corruption are really only happening now, during this government. They also say that they did not hear, or were not aware of, these problems before. One of the groups you are referring to has fared quite well with this argument during this campaign. What is your opinion on this, Gen. Oviedo?

[Oviedo] The dictatorship hid the facts with all their money, by purchasing consciences, and coercing the press. Do you think, Benjamin Fernandez, that you would have been able to speak freely, just as you are doing now, during the dictatorship? Do you think that a reporter could just get a court order, or enter the barracks or the police department, to find out about irregularities? Are you aware that more Paraguayans lived outside than inside the country, supposedly because they were Communists? Are you aware of the number of missing people whose parents are still trying to find out what happened to their dear ones? We lived in the same system that was used in East Europe. Those arguments come from a minute group of people who are full of money and continue to manipulate Paraguayans. Just make a survey throughout the country—I am a humble peasant who constantly visits the interior—and you will see that the people have great hopes of overcoming our poverty. Naturally, a small group of people ate better before. However, we also know that no one could speak about his poverty or his hunger in the past.

You, Benjamin, are not improvising. You are a very capable person, and are doing a great job on behalf of democracy. More than anyone else, you know that no one could say he was not living well during the dictatorship. Or do you think perhaps that those who died in the dark cells of the Investigative Police could cry, shout, or say that they were suffering inadmissible barbarian treatment? If human rights organizations could describe those years, and teach the people about them, I am sure the people would prefer to live with a little hunger but

not with so much injustice. Peasants usually say that a little hunger is a small price to pay for justice. Injustice is more painful than hunger. I think I am answering your question, which has many more answers, Benjamin. Besides, we had that huge foreign debt and all financial doors closed because we did not pay our bills, and because we did not have a believable program which international organizations could trust. Naturally, the people are today protesting because they are free to speak. They can freely express their feelings and say what hurts them. Second, those people left us in a bad economic situation. And third, the international organizations closed their doors to us. But those doors are gradually opening again.

You must have read it in the newspapers. The country with the smallest foreign debt in Latin America is Paraguay, which has already mortgaged 50 percent of its foreign debt despite the economic situation we inherited. We inherited a bankrupt country. Excuse me, Benjamin, if I did not correctly reply to your question, but it was very broad, and I need more time to answer it.

I am very moved at being able to come here to vote freely, like any other citizen, but whose profession happens to be that of a military man. I am integrated here with the people, can embrace the humblest. In the past generals were forced to move with a Prussian Guard, with our soldiers opening the way through the people, kicking them as if they were a Roman Guard.

[Fernandez] Do you think these Colorado Party internal elections will provide victory for the most reactionary, regressive, and authoritarian faction of the party?

[Oviedo] Well, Benjamin, I do not really want to answer that question. The only thing I want is what the lord has brought to our land: peace, love, understanding, and reconciliation, something upheld by one faction. That other faction is not really seeking this, because in order to have reconciliation there should not be hatred, rancor, or slandering, but rather peace and love. One reaps what one sows. He who sows storms will reap tempests, Benjamin. This is my reply to all those who still seek to create hatred, rancor, slandering, and disunity. Now more than ever, Paraguay needs national unity to defeat poverty, so that wealth may be fairly shared—that is, those who have more should leave space for those who have less, so that we may all live with well being, peace, and love.

[Fernandez] General Oviedo, in conclusion, if the dictator Stroessner should return to the country, where should he go?

[Oviedo] First of all, he must be judged in court, Benjamin. I think that if there really is a fair justice, we all know where he should go. First of all, he should be held accountable for his governmental, economic, political, and judicial actions. I must say that no one can simply say: I did not know what happened during my administration. One can delegate some functions, but an authority can never delegate his responsibility, Benjamin. I am not sure if I clearly answered your question.

An authority who is not responsible for his administration, government, or the power legitimately entrusted to him by the people is therefore completely irresponsible. During the Triple Alliance War in 1869, Colonel Vicente Mongelos was executed by Mariscal Lopez, not because he plotted against him, but because he did not know what was going on in his garrison. This means that any citizen who heads any institution is responsible for everything that is done and not done within his institution. An official must not simply say that he did not know what happened in the Technical, or in the Investigative, or in the Central Police Department. We would all be like Pontius Pilate. To whom will the people make demands for their government actions? Must we be irresponsible for our administrative actions and let the poor pay for the damage?

[Fernandez] General Oviedo, everything you have said demonstrates that there really is no room for a return to the past, no room for a dictatorship or for nostalgia.

[Oviedo] I would say there is, but in jail. Thank you.

[Fernandez] Thank you.

Maidana Claims U.S. Trained Police in Torture

PY2612003892 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Dec 92 pp 28-29

[Text] Ananias Maidana, secretary general of the Paraguayan Communist Party, has asserted that Paraguayan policemen have been trained in torture techniques in the United States and Panama. He was thus supporting charges that had been denied by the U.S. Embassy.

Maidana said that Paraguayan policemen of various ranks "had been trained in the United States and in Panama while that country was under Yankee domination." Maidana added that the policemen learned sophisticated torturing techniques there during the days of dictatorship in Paraguay. Maidana thus supported charges that had already been denied by the U.S. Embassy.

The Communist leader requested clarification from the courts about the fate of nearly 70 members of his party who have been missing since the 1960's, when Stroessner's repressive operations were conducted. He asserted that the members of the security forces were trained abroad in how to assail other Paraguayans.

Special U.S. and Panamanian centers were used as schools for training the members of Asuncion Police Precinct No. 3, alias the "Police Technical Affairs Directorate" of the Interior Ministry, and those of other security force institutions during Stroessner's regime. Maidana said that the U.S. and Panamanian schools trained the Paraguayans in effective ways of obtaining information through torture.

After of the U.S. Embassy denial published on 23 December, which denied any link with torture or other repressive acts, Maidana maintained that the U.S. Embassy had participated in these acts.

Maidana quoted some of Dictator Alfredo Stroessner's comments during a visit by a human rights organization to Paraguay, when he referred to those being held under arrest in the country as "international prisoners."

"We were U.S. Government prisoners in Paraguayan territory. They trained Antonio Campos Alum, who until yesterday headed the 'Police Technical Affairs Directorate,' to repress Communists," Maidana said.

Where Are They?

Maidana added that next week his party will formally request that Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez, who is in charge of the Third District Court, open an inquest seeking to clarify the fate of the missing Communist Party leaders, among them Antonio Maidana, Miguel Angel Soler, Derlis Villagra, Lieutenant Caceres Carisimo, and several other men and women.

Judge Fernandez has told Maidana that, once the request is made, the inquest will begin "without any difficulty."

It has also been reported that those who have been [sentence incomplete as published]

Government Decries Possible Attacks on Workers

PY2512133892 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] The presidency of the Republic has issued a communique stating that, in accordance with reliable information obtained at the Itaipu dam area, a group of destabilizers is seeking to attack some striking workers and then blame the government for these attacks.

The government states that "in the face of any abnormal action aimed at disrupting order, at distorting the democratic transition process, or—as in this case—at deliberate and cowardly attempts against the lives of other fellow citizens, the government will avail itself of every institutional mechanism to prevent or, if appropriate, mete out stiff punishments to those found to be the perpetrators, accomplices, or accessories to such serious actions."

Peru

Bombs Explode Near Costa Rican, Chinese Embassies

PA2712021992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0057 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] For the past five days Lima has enjoyed a Christmas without violence or terrorist crimes in a climate of peace and family harmony. Early this morning, however, alleged subversives detonated two car bombs near the Chinese and Costa Rican Embassies and the Austrian Consulate. The vehicles were filled with propane and gasoline cylinders. [Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1648 GMT on 26 December in a similar report adds: "The police arrested two alleged terrorists carrying explosives."] In addition, sticks of dynamite attached to more than 20 dogs exploded in various outlying Lima neighborhoods. Apparently the Shining Path rebels wanted to call public attention to communist leader Mao Zedong's birthday.

The first explosion involved a Volkswagen and occurred at 0555 in San Jose Granda Avenue in San Isidro, where the Chinese ambassador's residence is located. Five minutes later another Volkswagen exploded at the entrance to the Costa Rican Embassy and the Austrian Consulate, which are located on the first block of Emilio Cabenecia Avenue. Neither of the explosions resulted in any casualties. Interior Minister General Juan Briones Davila visited the affected buildings out of concern for the diplomats' safety.

In San Jose the Costa Rican Government has reportedly requested that Peruvian authorities promptly investigate the attack. Everything indicates that the attack was aimed at the Costa Rican Embassy, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus stated. He also issued a communique condemning violence and terrorism.

In another incident, employees of an advertising agency that handles publicity for Pablo Gutierrez of San Isidro, a Lima mayoral candidate, called police to investigate a package that had been left near the agency. Police quickly went to the site and after careful study of the suspicious package, the defusing team reported it had been a false alarm.

'Terrorists' Explode Truck Bomb; Causes 'Huge' Fire

PA2712022792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0155 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] This is a last minute report: A few minutes ago terrorists exploded a truck bomb at a gasoline station on Block 12 on Grau Avenue. The action produced a huge fire which is threatening San Fernando of San Marcos Faculty [as heard], which is only a few meters away.

Firemen and police units are struggling to control the fire. So far there is no report on victims.

Bomb Threat Forces Aeroflot Plane To Return to Lima

PA2812040892 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] An anonymous call alerted Aeroflot airline personnel to the possibility of a bomb aboard a plane that had taken off just moments before the warning. Flight 346, bound for Havana and Moscow, left Jorge Chavez International Airport at 1515 [2015 GMT]. An hour and a half later it was forced to return owing to the possibility

that an explosive device was on board. The plane was taken to a special section of the air terminal where specially trained personnel helped passengers off the plane and unloaded all baggage for inspection. The plane took off again four hours later.

Coupist To Be Moved to High Security Prison

PA2512160592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 92

["Official communique" issued by the Supreme Council of Military Justice Public Relations Office in Lima on 24 December]

[Text] The Supreme Council of Military Justice hereby makes the following announcement:

In an 18 December 1992 communique, the Supreme Council of Military Justice said the Army officers involved in the 13 November 1992 rebellion were confined to a common prison for strictly military security reasons. Given the nature of the crimes they are accused of, they would be held there only until a high security military prison could be prepared. The Army High Command has reported to the Supreme Council's War Room that the Bolivar garrison facilities in Pueblo Libre have been prepared and that the officers will now be transferred there. Consequently, the War Room has ordered that Division General Jaime Salinas and other officers currently under legal proceedings be transferred to the Bolivar garrison installations. The arraignment official is in charge of enforcing this order.

It is hereby reiterated to the public that the Supreme Council of Military Justice will continue to act only in strict obedience of its organic law and the military code of justice.
[Issued] Lima, 24 December 1992
Supreme Council of Military Justice Public Relations Office

Retired Officers Protest

PA2512040792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1651 GMT 24 Dec 92

[All quotations marks as received]

[Text] Lima, 24 Dec (NOTIMEX)—It was disclosed on 24 December that approximately 19 former Peruvian Army general commanders expressed their outrage at the "humiliation" that the soldiers who participated in the coup attempt are experiencing. They regretted the breakdown of the military judicial tradition.

In a letter made public on 24 December and addressed to Army Commander General Nicloas de Bari Hermoza, the high-ranking retired officers expressed their concern about the developments following the 13 November rebellion.

They called for a repeal of the law decree issued one month ago establishing the imprisonment of approximately 13 officers, including five generals, in a Lima maximum security prison that also houses dangerous criminals, drug traffickers, as well as subversives.

According to the former military officers, the decision has the "unmistakable objective of intimidating and humiliating personal and institutional dignity." They also clarified that their concern "in no way supports the developments that took place."

"The fact the military officers [words indistinct] described as "inappropriate in its judicial decision since military courts determined that subversive leaders should carry out their sentences in Navy military establishments.

In October 1992 the Supreme Military Judicial Council sentenced Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman—charged with treason—and his closest associates to life imprisonment.

In addition, the former general commanders stated they are also concerned about the treatment of the imprisoned soldier's relatives, who have denounced instances of torture.

Francisco Morales Bermudez, president during the military regime, is included among those former officers who signed the document.

Javier Valle Riestra, defense attorney for the alleged coup leader Gen. Jaime Salinas Sedo, requested the military court to revoke the order to transfer the accused to a common prison because it violates the code of military justice.

A military source disclosed that a vote on the appeal is still pending and a definite answer is expected during the next few hours.

Monsignor Augusto Vargas Alzamora, head of the Peruvian Catholic Church, supported the request made by opposition leaders to grant an amnesty to the military coupists.

Vargas Alzamora pointed out that, according to his opinion, the accused have not committed a serious crime and do not deserve to be imprisoned."

The political opposition believes the so-called "counter coup" [contragolpe] was merely trying to restore democracy in Peru. A democracy that was interrupted by President Fujimori's 5 April self-inflicted coup that dissolved Congress and was supported by the Armed Forces.

Guyana

Government Reports IMF To Release Additional Funds

FL2412234192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1415 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 24, CANA—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is releasing an additional $12.3 million dollars to Guyana which the government can draw down before the year's end, the Finance Ministry said.

Approval of the financing, being made available under the Fund's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), came after the IMF board considered the economic and financial policies Guyana plans to pursue over the next year.

"Approval also clears the way for a Paris Club meeting to consider further rescheduling of Guyana's external debt during the first quarter of 1993 and for continued donor assistance," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

After six years of negative growth, the Guyana economy grew last year by 6.1 per cent after the former People's National Congress government implemented an economic recovery programme with the support of the IMF, World Bank and other donors.

The new government of President Cheddi Jagan informed the IMF in a memorandum setting out its objectives and policies over the next year of its "strong commitment to the fundamental principles of the economic recovery programme to sustain its reform policies", the Finance Ministry statement said.

Improved Economic Prospects Reported

FL2512001092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1534 GMT 24 Dec 92

[By Ric Mentus]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 24, CANA—The mood in Guyana these days is upbeat. Some say it looks as if this 83,000-square-mile country is coming alive after years of virtual economic and social stagnation.

Members and supporters of the new administration will tell you that all this is due to the change of government after the general election on October 5.

But it is obvious that many of the visible structural changes—new buildings going up, old ones repainted and renovated, small businesses started up—must have begun two to three years ago.

In fact, said one analyst, the evidence seems to indicate that the changes began gradually soon after it was clear that there will be fair and free elections in Guyana as soon as such an event could be arranged.

Father Andrew Morrison, editor of the CATHOLIC STANDARD and a veteran campaigner for democracy in Guyana, summed it up for some Guyanese when he said, in moving a vote of thanks to new President Cheddi Jagan on December 10: "At last I feel a sense of freedom."

There have been upbeat reports from the sugar and rice industries.

Sugar production, which had dropped from a high of 300,790 tons in 1981 to a low of 129,920 tons in 1990, was picking up steam and estimated to reach 160,000 tons this year.

The state-owned company Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited (Guysuco) and the major union in the industry, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAGWU), are forcasting even better days ahead.

Guysuco is now being managed under contract by the British firm Booker Tate and in its 1990 annual report expresses the hope that "the industry will once again rise to great heights producing benefits for all which they so richly deserve."

The union also feels that with effective management from Booker Tate and the returns to the industry of workers who had drifted away or migrated because of reportedly inefficient management, production will continue to climb.

In 1990, the company made an after-tax profit of G35.6 million dollars compared to G34.1 million dollars the previous year. (US1 dollar equals G126 dollar). But the industry had to pay an export sales levy of G711.1 million dollars last year (G753.4 million dollars in 1989) and now has a backlog of accumulated losses totalling G374.3 million dollars in 1990, mainly due to the levy.

This was introduced in 1974, when the estates were foreign owned, in an attempt, the government of the day said, to prevent the foreigners from creaming off the profits of the industry.

But it was continued after the industry was nationalised in 1976. Between 1987 and 1991, the levy amounted to G4,154 million dollars. By the end of the year, it is expected to reach G5,600 million dollars.

The problem, though, is that the industry is badly in need of renovation—factories, equipment, buildings, drainage and irrigation systems—and the bill it put conservatively at US500 million dollars.

The implication is that the only way this could be met is through foreign ownership of at least 60 percent of the enterprise, a decision the government may have to take sooner rather than later.

Rice is in a somewhat similar position. Assistant general secretary of the Rice Producers Association, Fazal Ally, traces a decline in production from 268,000 tons in 1963 to 122,090 tons in 1990.

And he too blames the decline on what he called the mismanagement of the industry by the former People's National Congress government which he accused of discrimination, low prices for paddy, and failure to maintain the infrastructure—roads, drains and bridges.

Those conditions, he said, forced farmers out of the industry so that by 1991 less than half the traditional rice lands were in cultivation. But the tide had changed, he said, since October this year.

People were now clamouring for lands to plant rice: All the abandoned lands were now taken up and farmers were asking for more, he said.

"Soon we will be back to, and even surpass, the production of 1963," he added.

A new thrust in the gold industry, led primarily by foreign captial and expertise, and the possibility of oil being found in the interior, must have also played a part in livening up the general atmosphere in Georgetown.

As Christmas approached, the downtown and midtown streets were virtually overrun by vendors of all types. The main commercial areas - Water Street, Regent Street, Robb Street and sections of the Avenue of the Republic and outside the two major markets, Stabroek and Bourda - constituted an obstacle course.

On the political front, the opposition People's National Congress is split, with former deputy leader Hamilton Green publicly confirming differences with party leader Desmond Hoyte.

But analysts say the general feeling is that Hoyte will win and the PNC will move away from its old principle of "paramountcy" of the party over the government, and be an effective opposition in the true traditions of parliamentary democracy.